

OTHER

PRESS

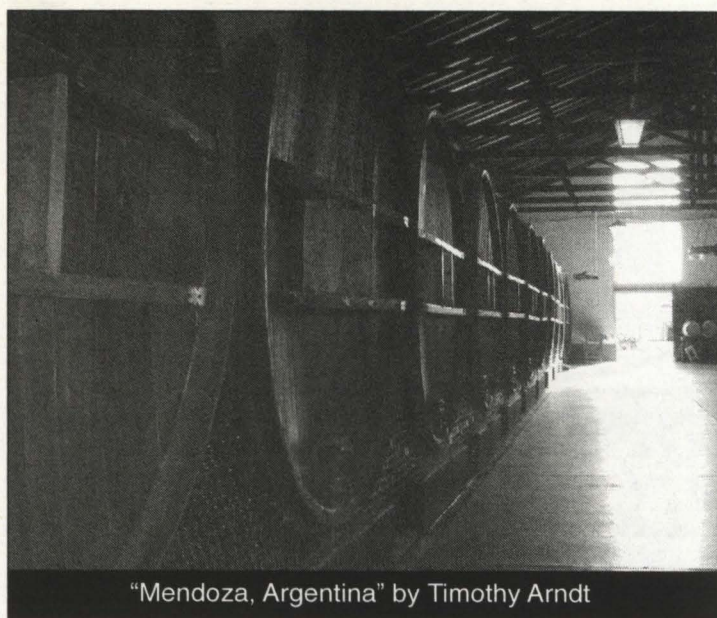
theotherpress.ca

the Douglas college student newspaper since 1976
Issue 18, Vol 35, February 2/09

Generic Candidate

You... ?

Douglas College seeks
student representatives page 6



"Mendoza, Argentina" by Timothy Arndt

WRITE FOR US!

Anyone can get published in the Other Press! Just email your story to the appropriate section editor from the list on the right.

Please send your file as an MSWord doc file, and include your full name, email address, and word count.

The weekly deadline for submissions is Wednesday night for publication the following Monday. Letters to the Editor and "time-sensitive" articles (weekend news, sports, and cultural reviews) will be accepted until Saturday at noon and can be submitted to the editor at editor@theotherpress.ca

Submissions will be edited for clarity and style.

The Other Press will pay \$50 to any student who writes an article of at least 1,000 words for the "features" section. Submit story ideas to the Editor in Chief. Offer good once per semester per student.

The Other Press holds weekly staff meetings at 6 PM on Mondays in room 1020 of the New Westminster campus. All interested students are welcome.

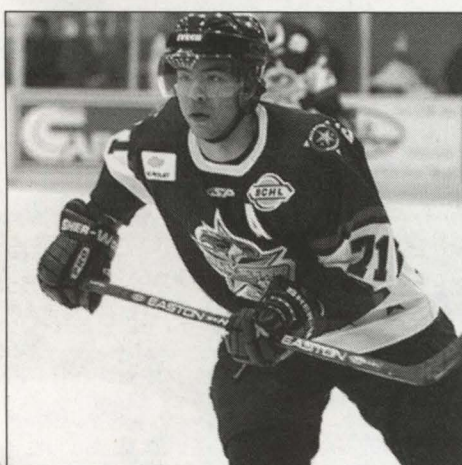
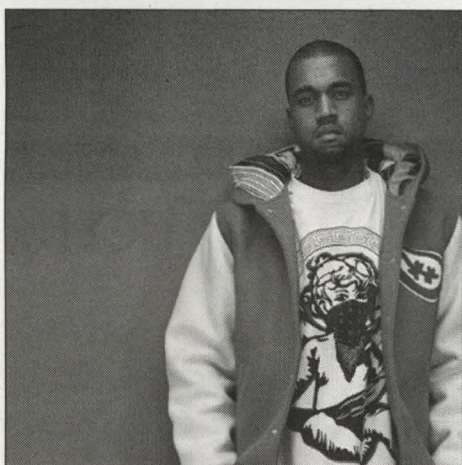
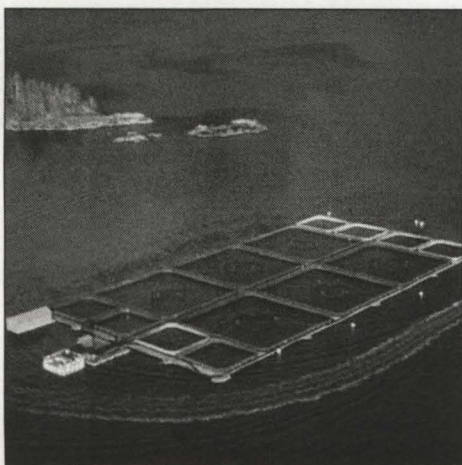
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NEWS

What's stopping the DSU from getting out of receivership?

-Matthew Steinbach, Pg. 6

OPINIONS

Do we have free will? Or are we just puppets? Roll up a fatty, because this article will blow your fuckin' mind.

-Priscilla Bartleman, Pg. 6

FEATURE

We issue midterm report cards on the Vancouver Canucks.

-Garth McLennan, page 14

SPORTS

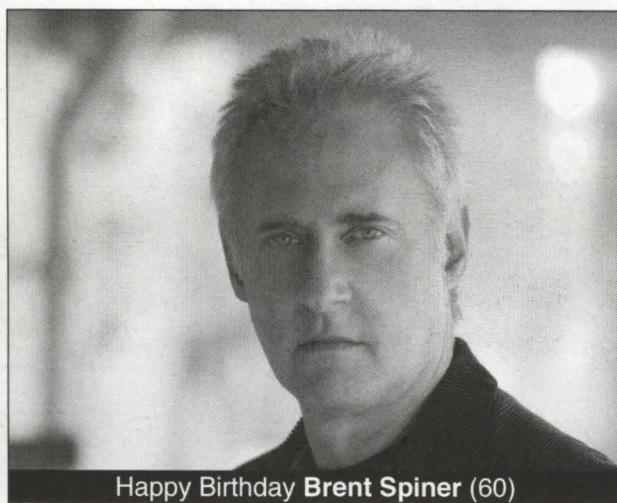
Casey Pierro-Zabotel: long name, long list of accomplishments.

-Garth McLennan, page 16

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

We review Underworld: Rise of the Lycans. SPOILER ALERT: it's not that bad.

-Chloé Bach, Pg. 22



Happy Birthday Brent Spiner (60)

WHO WE ARE

The Other Press has been Douglas College's student newspaper since 1976. Since 1978 we have been an autonomous publication, independent of the student union. Today we are registered society under the Society Act of British Columbia, governed by an eight-person board of directors appointed by and from our staff. Our head office is located in the New Westminster campus.

The Other Press is published weekly during the fall and winter semesters, and monthly during the summer. We receive our funding from a student

levy collected through tuition fees every semester at registration, and from local and national advertising revenue. The Other Press is a member of the Canadian University Press (CUP), a syndicate of student newspapers that includes papers from all across Canada.

The Other Press reserves the right to choose what we will publish, and we will not publish material that is hateful, obscene, or condones or promotes illegal activities. Submissions may be edited for clarity and brevity if necessary. All images used are copyright to their respective owners.

THE OTHER PRESS

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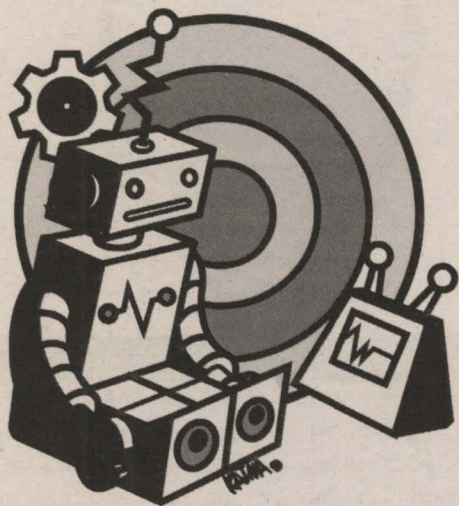
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LETTITOR

"'My Favourite Things' are playing again and again,
But it's by Julie Andrews, and not by John Coltrane"

—Elvis Costello, "This is Hell"

My least favourite things

This week, for some reason, the rage inside me has been building at an ever-increasing rate. I'm not sure why that is, but I've got five prime suspects to blame.

STEPHEN HARPER: This week, in the House of Commons, Stephen Harper said that Jack Layton was pretending to be a "left-wing ideologue" by pushing the Conservatives to adopt a fairer process for women to get equal pay for equal work. Right on, Stephen! You show that goddamn communist who's boss! Seriously, though, if Stephen Harper considers equality for women to be an issue of the radical left, what does that say about his own feelings about equality? I guess it's no surprise that the Conservatives never get much support from women when they seem to think so lowly about such issues.

COORS LIGHT: Okay, I'm sure every person in Canada has seen the ads on TV for Coors' new "Cold-Certified Can." And, I certainly hope that every person in Canada immediately threw their remote through the TV in rage at the poor regard that advertisers and product developers have for consumers, and also, for the stupidity of those very consumers for buying such a product. I mean, really, has society gotten to a point where we need a label on our beer to tell us when it's cold? Do people not know what cold feels like? Here's a clue for ya, dumbass: *it's the opposite of hot.*

RBC'S TORCH CONTEST: Speaking of TV commercials, this ad has to be the most irritating I've heard in a while. Not that the idea of the contest or the values they're trying to promote are bad, it's just that damn jingle. I know it's supposed to inspire me to do good in my community, but really, I feel more inspired to club a seal, drive an SUV, sell crack and

punch babies afterwards.

MATHIEU GARON: Seriously, dude, can you stop *anything* that gets thrown at you?

PEOPLE WHO TELL ME I'M CRAZY:

This is really getting old. I'm sick of people tell me that just because I'm stressed out or tired that I'm "crazy." Does anyone even consider how disrespectful and mean that is? If someone says that you're crazy, what they're trying to say is that they don't think what you say is valuable or worthwhile, and that your opinion doesn't matter. Let's face it, we all have little rough patches that make us impatient, frustrated or angry, and rough patches is just what they are, not "craziness." It's a cold thing to do to someone, and the secret messages being broadcast to me from barking dogs on TV are totally on my side with this one.

Your friend in high fidelity,

Liam Britten
Editor-in-Chief
The Other Press

THE OTHER PRESS IS HIRING

Section Editor:

One of section editor positions may soon be available. If you'd be interested in any of them please submit an application! We're looking for someone with an engaging writing style, varied interests and a desire to contribute. Please apply!

Pay: **\$270-\$400** per month

Submit your application to editor@theotherpress.ca

Assistant Editor:

Duties include editing all copy submitted to the paper, making sure nothing libelous is printed, and assisting the Editor-In-Chief whenever he needs it!

Pay: **\$550** per month

Douglas College Wrap Up

By Matthew Steinbach and Ashley Whillans



Valentine's Day at Douglas

On February 11th and 12th, the Office for New Students will be hosting a Valentine's Day event, which will include flowers and chocolates for sale in the concourse. Their annual "He Said She Said" celebrity dating panel will also occur again this year. This year will also see the inclusion of "Cupid's Arrow," a game where students use toy bows and arrows to shoot for prizes, as well as a highly competitive chocolate eating contest.

ONS open house

The Office for New Students will open their office doors at the David Lam Campus so that students can drop in and ask questions.

The event will happen on February 6th in room A1360. Food and beverages will also be supplied by the ONS to help encourage Coquitlam students to come on out and take part in this open house.

Lecture on climate change

On Tuesday, February 24th in room 2203 of the New West Campus, Douglas College students are invited to see world-renowned botanist Richard Joseph Hebda speak about climate change.

Hebda will lecture on climate change in British Columbia, the lessons from the past and some strategies for the future from 11 a.m.-12 p.m. with a question period afterwards.

Besides serving as an adjunct professor for the University of Victoria, Hebda also works for the Royal British Columbia Museum as a curator, and has served as an export advisor for the Province of B.C. for Burns Bog.

He is a popular expert on climate change and has published and edited many books, and reports on the topic.

For more information, please contact Dave Waddington at 604.527.5230 or waddingtond@douglas.bc.ca

Brainify simplifies web searching for students

By Ashley Whillans, Associate News Editor

Brainify (www.brainify.com) is a new website designed to alleviate the stress of online researching for students and professors alike. Boasting itself as a website founded "for brainiacs and by brainiacs," Brainify is a social bookmarking tool that aims to bring academics from around the world together to share their favourite web-based resources.

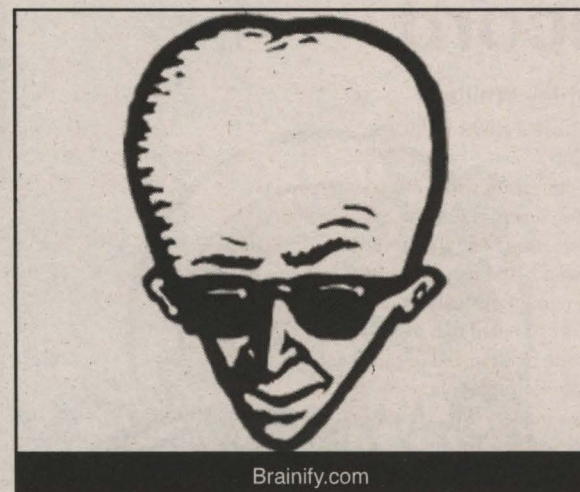
Brainify works through participation. With universities, organizations and professors putting up tons of information on the Internet, the problem isn't the quantity of academic online content, but organization of the available information.

Academic Social Bookmarking allows students to look through websites previously bookmarked, flagged, and rated by other students or academics instead of resorting to broad and spam-ridden search engines. If a user is unable to find what they are looking for through Brainify, they can post their questions on the online forum, or perform an "education filtered" web search.

"There are an amazing number of outstanding academic sites on the web," Goldberg said. "If a great site exists, there is a student somewhere who knows about it. If a student has a question, there is another student somewhere who knows the answer. Brainify is about student-focused education, academic community, and peer learning."

"I [have] always thought it would be really fantastic for academic students to connect worldwide. Students have great social networks outside of school such as Facebook that go beyond the people that [are] around them, but not so much with their academic studies," Goldberg said. "When people start coming to Brainify, they find a few websites that work the best for them, bookmark them for their peers which not only saves time for themselves and others, but ultimately has the potential to help them do better in school."

An additional feature of Brainify is the "user



Brainify.com

reputation scale." A user's "reputation" is meant to represent the value of an individual's contribution to the website. If a user is ranked amongst the highest "contribution" they have the potential to receive money for their efforts; Goldberg has in fact promised to distribute 30% of the proceeds, if ever sold, to these valued and "contributing" members.

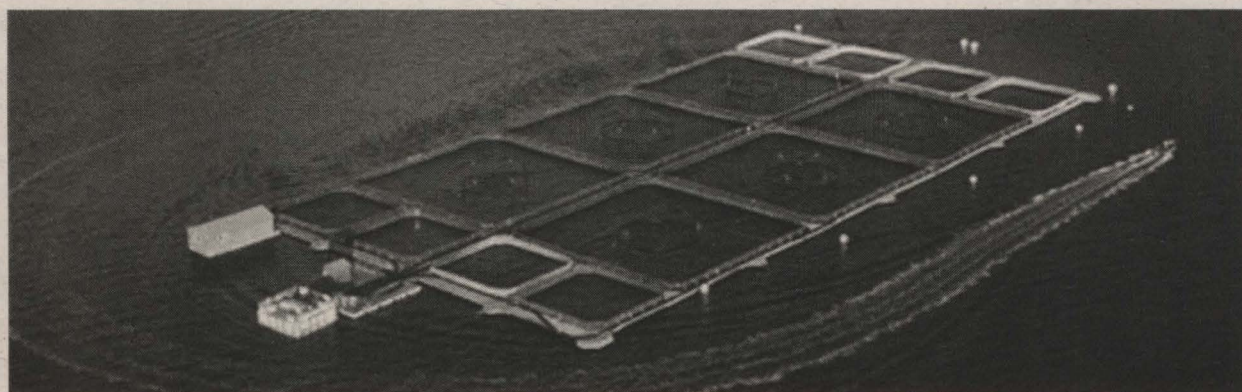
While the future of Brainify seems promising, it needs student support.

"Brainify is going to live or die by word of mouth and if [the students] tell their friends, we can build something that could be fantastic for students all over the world. Hopefully Brainify will facilitate the creation of widespread persistent academic communities for all students," Goldberg said.

Goldberg is hoping that with the help of students and professors, Brainify will become the place for students to find academic information online, saving time, money and most importantly, creating an academic community outside of the classroom.

Murray Goldberg is also faculty member in the Department of Computer Science at the University of British Columbia, and previously founded WebCT.

Conservatives could put fish farms at risk



Matthew Steinbach
news editor

The Living Oceans Society is accusing the Conservatives of not doing enough with last week's budget to help protect the environment. There has been a particular item that the government decided to include that bothers the society.

The group has expressed great concern regarding the regulation and screening system in place for areas like aquaculture through the Environmental Assessment Act, which they believe could be thrown out all together by the Harper government at some point in the future.

What bothers them is the fact that any project that costs less than \$10 million will be exempt from any

screening programs. Their concern is the possibility that this will lead to "sea lice infestations on juvenile wild salmon and other negative impacts from salmon farming" according to a recent press release from the group.

Ironically, the Brian Mulrooney's Progressive Conservative government initially introduced the Act well over 15 years ago when the Tories last had federal power. The goal was to ensure proper regulations were in place and that they were sustainable with aquaculture industry that was developing at the time, and has grown substantially on both of Canada's coasts since.

Family Literacy Week attempts to set world record

By Ashley Whillans
Associate News Editor

In conjunction with Family Literacy Day, children across Canada busily practiced their reading and listening skills, in hopes of setting a world record for the most children reading (simultaneously) with an adult.

It is estimated that over 180,000 children nationwide participated in the event which took place on Friday, January 23rd and Saturday, January 24th. However, official numbers will remain unknown until collected and sent to Guinness World Record officials.

This world-be record attempt was the first feature event of Family Literacy Week, an initiative started by ABC Canada Literacy Foundation to raise awareness about the literacy services available to B.C. families, and spotlight important issues motivating the development of innovative family literacy programs.

For 30 minutes, all participants read the same material—in this case, Robert Munsch's collection *Munschworks 2* (which includes his popular stories *Pigs*; *Mortimer*; *Purple, Green and Yellow*; *Murmel, Murmel, Murmel*) and *Something Good*—and many schools, community centres, libraries, malls, and

private homes took part in the events.

While the total number of readers will remain unknown for many months, the current record—78,791 readers—was set in the U.S. Marni Ashdown of the Coquitlam Public Library told *The Other Press* that regardless of whether or not the world record was broken, the event was a huge success.

The event attracted almost 50 enthusiastic children and their families to the Coquitlam Public Library, excited at the idea of participating in a possibly world record-breaking event.

"The event was a great way to highlight literacy and the schools were really positive about it," said Ashdown. "The kids were really excited about breaking the Guinness World Record and more importantly they were excited to read."

It also has had an impact on library circulation; after the event, copies of the Guinness Book of World Records were nowhere to be found!

Many other events are scheduled for Family Literacy Week, including story time, puppet shows, and spelling bees.

More information is available from www.literacybc.ca.



CSRW clubs seek DSU funds



By Matthew Steinbach, News Editor

Over the last couple of weeks, readers of *The Other Press* have heard all about the new clubs the Centre for Sport, Recreation, and Wellness (CSRW) is attempting to create new clubs on campus.

However, when asked if these clubs would officially register with the Douglas Students' Union (DSU) to receive up to \$500 match funding per semester, Paul Granat explained that they would like to, but first what needs to happen for these clubs is "little steps."

In other words, Granat would like to see the organizational side take off first, and he wants to see if there is enough student interest before he attempts to register with the Students' Union. The next step for the

CSRW is to have a meeting with all those interested on February 4th at 4:30 p.m. in room 1811. Any new or interested students are also invited to attend.

What is required for a club to get DSU funding?

Any club that wants to become "official" in terms of funding has to comply with the DSU's rules, which set out that there must be ten active members, three of which have been elected by those members to sit as president, vice-president, and treasurer. The match funding is also only handed out based on deposits made during the semesters from the clubs to the DSU, and external accounts are not permitted. The money is also supposed to be raised through fundraising.

Tragedies strike Comox Valley and New Westminster MLAs

By Matthew Steinbach
News Editor

Provincial politics hit home in a personal way over the past few weeks as a pair of seats in the provincial legislature were left vacant by personal tragedies.

Stan Hagen remembered for legacy in education

Stan Hagen, Liberal MLA for Comox Valley, died of a heart attack on January 20th, 2009, a tragedy that John Nuraney, MLA for Burnaby-Willingdon, described as "shocking."

However, Nuraney stated that Hagen left a legacy for all British Columbians—and not just in his constituency—especially in education, in which many of the programs he initiated still stand today.

Hagen's death was a personal loss for Nuraney; he described Hagen as a "mentor and a friend" who "really showed me the ropes." Nuraney said Hagen was one of the first MLAs he befriended after being elected to the legislature.

Stan Hagen was first elected in 1986 and served as a cabinet minister in various capacities for the last two B.C. Liberal governments.

Cancer diagnosis forces resignation of Chuck Puchmayr

Chuck Puchmayr, NDP MLA for New

Westminster also had to bow out of public life recently to battle liver cancer.

Diane Thorne, NDP MLA for the Coquitlam-Maillardville, called Puchmayr's exit from provincial politics "devastating."

"I'm devastated; I lost my friend in the next riding," she said.

Thorne explained that this was a personal loss for her as they had been friends since the 1980s; both had been elected to their respective city councils in the same year, and even ran together provincially for the first time in 2005.

She went on to say that he is missed within the NDP caucus, that he was "funny, smart, and committed," but also that she was confident that her party will retain his seat and find many other qualified candidates to help carry on their work as a party.

Thorne also stated that both Puchmayr's and Hagen's unfortunate circumstances display how tough of a job politicians have.

She mentioned that when health problems do occur they are that much worse as they come on more like a "crash" than an average illness. She concluded that this "underlines how stressful and hard [of a] job" politicians have in front of them.

College Board and Education Council seek student representatives

By **Ashley Whillans**, Associate News Editor &
Matthew Steinbach, News Editor

Are you bored with your classes? Do you have new ideas to make school more interesting and engaging for yourself and others? Put your ideas into action with the Douglas College Education Council and College Board.

The Education Council is currently looking for four student elected representatives, and the College Board is looking for two students as well to serve the 2009/2010 term at Douglas College.

Not only will elected students receive great job related experience, but they will also have the opportunity to make important decisions affecting all Douglas College students.

Students on the Education Council will have the opportunity to make important decisions about special programming, curriculum content, policies relating to transfer credits as well as they will make

recommendations to the College Board on allocation of funds to specific programs. Last year alone, the Education Council decided to close the school down for two weeks to enable students to volunteer their time and take part in the Olympic festivities in 2010.

Board members will learn what it is like to be financially responsible for an organization and they will be directly responsible for all major budget and long-term decisions that Douglas College must make to ensure the college's survival in the 21st century education system.

There are other benefits to being involved than just being a part of the decisions.

"In addition to being involved in your community, being on a board of some sort gets you in the door, looks good on your resume, you can get reference letters if you are a looking for a job afterwards and it is a good experience for public speaking," says Alysia MacGrotty, current Douglas College Board Member.

Elections are open for any student interested in serving a one-year term with either committee or both if a student chooses to run for the council and the board.

However, two education council seats are reserved for students whom are registered in 50% of their courses at the campus they wish to represent. The voting for each representative will take place within the constituent group (either New Westminster or Coquitlam) and students may be eligible to serve additional terms upon election. These restrictions do not affect the board.

The deadline to become a candidate is February 9th, and interested students must fill out a nominee application, available online at www.douglas.bc.ca (search for Education Council and/or College Board and click on the elections link) or in person at either the Registrar's Office or the Douglas Students' Union main office.

Two years later, and the DSU is still in receivership

By **Matthew Steinbach**, News Editor

Last month was the start of the second year of receivership for the Douglas Student's Union (DSU). They were first placed in this position by the courts in 2007 and have never gotten out of it.

Geoff Lenahan, treasurer for the Students' Union, commented recently that the DSU is moving forward, and that it's time that they left receivership "for the Students' Union's health."

He went on to explain that he was "tired of constant delays from the school."

The college has a say in this process as they were the organization that initially helped place the DSU in receivership, along with the Canadian Federation of Students' B.C. wing (CFS-BC), CFS-Services and the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) because of outstanding debts and other concerns regarding financial controls.

Lenahan explained that the main delay is the college's lingering concerns over the organization's fiscal controls, but this could all be resolved sometime after February 17th when the DSU officially will meet with the college's finance committee to discuss terms for the DSU to formally end receivership.

If this meeting does not go as planned, though, Lenahan did explain that the DSU would be prepared to take their case to court if need be to resolve their current predicament. However, both himself and Taylor, staff relations officer, do not believe that will transpire.

Geoff Lenahan explained that Marne

Jensen, receiver-manager for the DSU, has had "no hands in our operations" for the last year except in the case of major staff hiring and purchases. Taylor explained that they have been working closely with their auditors "to ensure financial accountability," and have been able to put in place many new controls, policies and procedures with the help of their newest staff member, the Finance and Services Coordinator Roxanna Matanzas. With her help, Taylor explains they have been able to keep everyone at an "arms length from cash." However, she was unable to go into specifics.

Despite any setbacks the DSU may be facing with the college, at least one of the DSU's creditors was supportive of their plight. Shamus Reid, chair for the CFS-B.C., explained that as far as they were concerned their debts have been paid off, and that "the DSU should be let out of receivership."

Marne Jensen, the receiver-manager, could not be reached for comment. She will have a final say as well on the end of her appointment, which is expected to occur on February 17th at the same financial meeting with the college.

Quick Facts on Receivership

What is Receivership?

Receivership is a court-ordered appointment of a person to control an organization because of what is seen as the loss of financial control over the organization. Creditors and other groups have to actually take the society to court to have this imposed upon them. The receiver, once put in place, has ultimate control of the organization's property, finances, and

operations until all parties can agree to release the society or until a court orders that the organization is in compliance.

So, why did this happen to the students' union?

Several years back, the DSU was close to bankruptcy, owed two rather large loans back to the CFS-B.C. and CFS-Services and a smaller loan to CUPE. Douglas College was also withholding the fees that students pay to the organization because their financial situation was considered to be out of control. So, in January 2007, these four groups put them into receivership.

Who is this Marne Jensen?

She is the general manager of the University of Victoria Students' Society, which had several financial issues of their own about five years before her appointment. She was appointed to repair the dire situation at the DSU. She was recommended by the CFS-B.C.

Is she paid by or accountable to students?

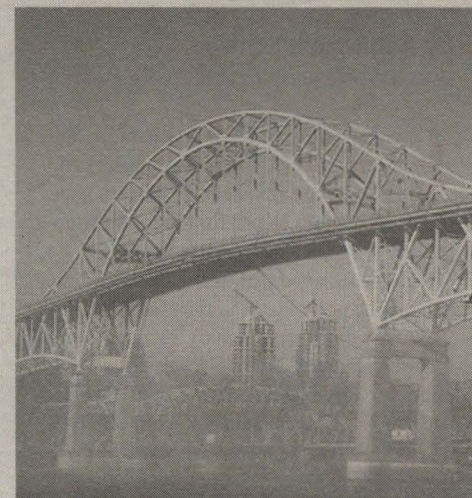
She is paid \$100 for every day she works on the DSU's file but she is only accountable to the Supreme Court of British Columbia. She can also hire anyone she deems necessary to help complete her work at the DSU, including assistants, bookkeepers, etc.

How long was this supposed to take?

The time to correct the situation was initially believed to be 3-6 weeks because Jensen was already acting as a financial advisor temporarily to the organization, so she was aware of the file.

News Shorts

By **Matthew Steinbach** and **Ashley Whillans**



Budget passes without a fuss

Last week, *The Other Press* reported that the coalition was still in play. However, on Wednesday, the Liberals decided instead to force the Conservative government to give into their demand of detailed reporting, and then supported the budget. This was meant to serve as a confidence motion, so if the opposition was not impressed with how the Tories were handling the economic crisis they could be ousted.

Pattullo Bridge re-opens

Commuters who were expecting a month of extended SkyTrain hours and bus re-routes had an unexpected surprise last Monday when TransLink suddenly announced that they would re-open the bridge only after a week since the fire that caused the closure.

As it turned out the damage was not as severe as Translink had initially expected and they were able to speed up the retrofit to the bridge because of this.

Say goodbye to Glen Elementary

Glen Elementary is closing its doors, and wants to celebrate!

After 95 years in operation, Glen Elementary School is being demolished to make way for a new and improved Glen School.

On May 22nd, 2009, staff and students of Glen Elementary are hosting "Au Revoir Old Friend" a reunion event schedule to honour the school's dynamic history.

Tickets are \$20 and include appetizers, refreshments, "decade rooms," displays, photographs and a cash bar. Organizers are suggesting that those interested in attending register early, as ticket prices increase on April 10th.

To help make the night a success, event organizer and teacher Luciano Stella is asking for the support of former students in contributing photos, memorabilia, and stories from the school's past in addition to registering for the event.

To contribute photos or register, visit www.sd43.bc.ca/glen or email glenreunion2009@hotmail.com

The strange nature of our insatiable political beast



Nikalas Kryzanowski
opinions editor

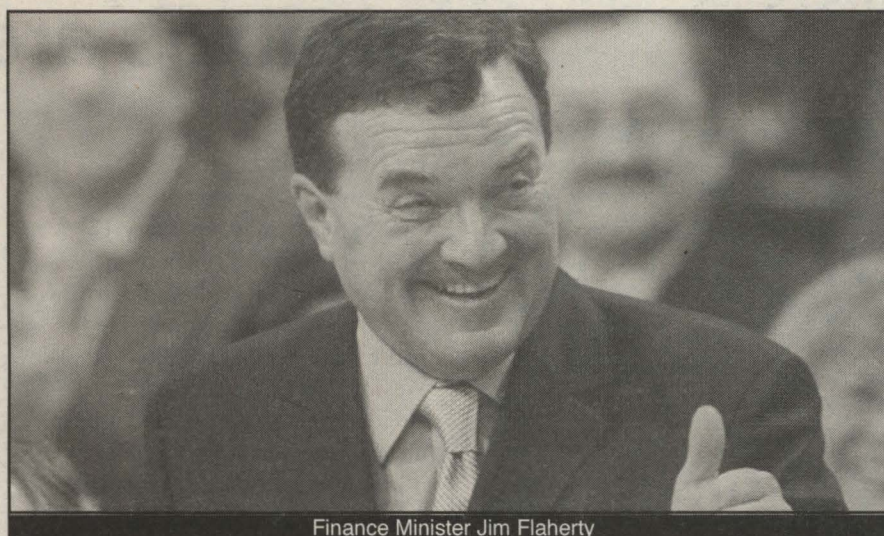
It's as if there was a twilight zone in the Bermuda triangle.

That's right;

nothing could be weirder than the Recession 2009 budget tabled last week by the Conservatives and the opposition parties' reaction to it.

Meant to be chock full of government spending goodies to help Joe Canuck stave off the imminent hard times that are starting to fall upon this great land. "Oh ho, this had better be good," you could hear them saying, smacking their lips.

No reaction was more surprising than the drawn out decision of NDP leader Jack Layton. For weeks prior to the budget he had been chattering his intentions to defeat the four-page document *before* actually reading it. Just imagine yourself in a boardroom at the fiscal meeting of the year for your company. The CEO (whom you don't get along with because you covet his job) comes into the room to announce the projects and initiatives he's going to pursue for the next few years and you refuse to hear him out. You dismiss him outright and vote against him before even reading his report. You'd probably be turfed out onto the sidewalk before



Finance Minister Jim Flaherty

you can utter the phrase "Dow Jones."

That's Jack Layton for you; the leader of an opposition party that's so principled it would cut off its moustache in spite of its face. The budget with its \$12 billion towards infrastructure, \$7.8 billion for social housing, \$2 billion in "green" research and upgrades, \$335 million to artists, and an extension of EI benefits is practically a love letter to the NDP leader.

But you can't back down once you show your hand, right? No cheap sweater jokes can help Layton out of this one. There was no way he could reverse his position no matter what the budget contained. And Layton thinks it's only the Conservatives that are

power hungry... sure, Jack.

Well, just maybe the Conservatives are power hungry! Layton is right when he says that Harper probably doesn't believe in most of the budget his party has tabled. Finance Minister Jim Flaherty wrote that budget with the seething, brooding and bloodthirsty coalition in mind. The Conservatives have also learned that McKenzie King's initial "do nothing" approach to the Great Depression was not the way to handle a faltering economy and with provincial and municipal leaders lining up with wish lists for their make work projects, that it's better for government to work with the provinces than to lord over them.

The Liberals on the other hand, their reaction has come to define the party as of late. Prop up the Conservatives until their own party—in shambles internally with its own financial crisis—can muster up what they need to drag themselves out of their \$6 million debt and the echoes of moral bankruptcy that seem to bounce off the walls of Stornoway from time to time. They'll support the budget, but "with reservations," of course; it's laughable, Liberal leader Michael Ignatieff putting the Conservatives "on probation" with this budget. In typical Liberal fashion, they don't have the muffins to stand up for what they *really* feel is good for Canadians. It's the same situation that dragged on for much of last year with Stéphane Dion. The Conservatives bait, Liberals back down because they're unprepared but all the while try to engineer themselves a way to *look* principled without actually being so.

It turns out the budget is just that—a budget; full of tax cuts and social spending; one that will erase billions of dollars of black ink and a decade of progress towards paying down the national debt. That said, with the extra money I'll be saving on taxes next year, I wonder how's the weather in Bermuda?

How free is free will?

By Priscilla Bartleman

Life is full of unique experiences, and I have had one of those that enlightened me to a world that can be dark, cruel and unusual. It started off with a philosophical question stemming from my Psych 3308 class and that is, "Do we have free will?"

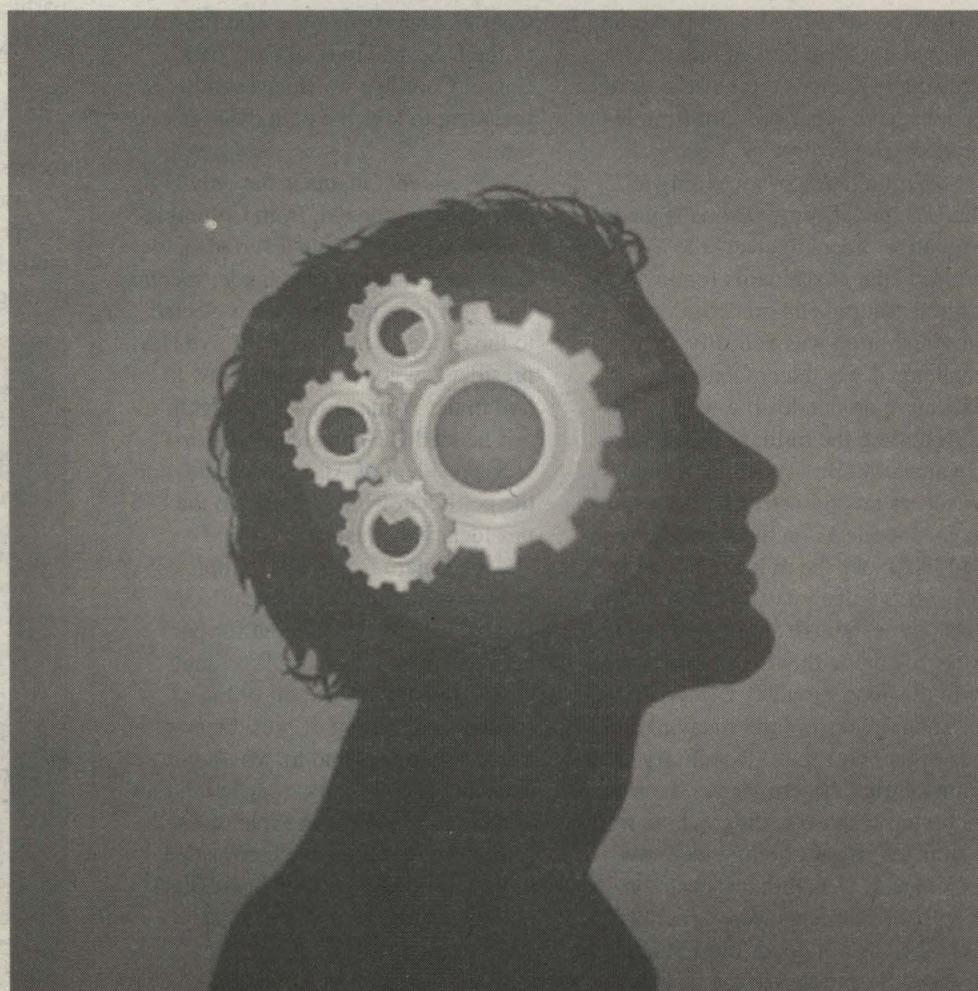
I was thinking about whether or not a human being was able to act freely in certain situations independent of natural and social compulsions. Are our actions free of moral, cultural, religious and social obligations? My answer came to me Monday and through this week something happened that enlightened me. It helped me better understand people. I have become aware of my own little bubble I live in because of the fact that this action came to me as a surprise and the bigger surprise was that there are many other people who feel this way.

Where does this fit in with free will? A person I know was able to rant publicly about her "politically incorrect" point of view on the

internet and this was free of moral and social obligation, there is nothing anyone can do.

The question then is whether that is really Free Will when, yes, she did speak freely from moral, cultural, religious and social obligation but was it really independent of a natural and social compulsion? The focus of my disbelief is because there are other people who feel this way, and that natural compulsion is seen to be at arms length with someone/ something that is unlike what I see as normal.

Maybe I am crazy, but I live in a world where people are unique, different and amazing in their own way. When you take the time to get to know someone you can see the beauty, and (sadly, sometimes like I have this week) the darkness. I now understand her actions were not independent of natural and social compulsion, that there are many other people who fear things that do not reflect their ideas of beauty, wellness and normal but I think I like my world better—it hurts less.



Twelve degrees of separation



By Ronald Callender

Was the oath-of-office snafu, wherein Chief Justice John Roberts stumbled over some wording while President Obama was being sworn in as the 44th president of the U.S., a blessing in disguise? Was poetic justice at work when the snafu occurred? The snafu has been a blessing in disguise, at least for me and will be for anyone who has an interest in U.S. politics. If it hadn't occurred, I would not have looked into the ways President Obama's circumstances and actions have separated him from his predecessor, George W. Bush.

Within hours of ascending to the U.S. presidency, Obama signed executive orders to create the highest ethical standards for any administration. His predecessor's administration was ethically challenged. President Obama's executive orders dealing with issues surrounding the military prison at Guantanamo Bay ("Gitmo"), and its prisoners are diametrically opposite to Bush policies on the same matters, and will close the military prison at the U.S.'s Cuban naval station within one year; establish an interagency task force to deal with what should be done with the approximately 245 prisoners at "Gitmo;" restore the standard and due process for the U.S. military court-martial system; and end torture, including water boarding, which was conducted to get intelligence from prisoners in U.S. military custody.

Bush's policies were generally described as not good for U.S. citizens or the U.S. standing in the world.

Therefore, their undoing means the snafu was pregnant with poetic justice. The snafu also propelled President Obama from just being one of 42 presidents into a special small-group of presidents. That distances him again from Bush.

Bush was never sworn in twice in one term. But President Obama, by retaking the oath "out of an abundance of caution," became only the third U.S. president to do so in one term. Chester Alan Arthur, the 21st President of the U.S., had to retake the oath. Calvin Coolidge was the second U.S. president to take the oath twice in one term.

President Obama is the only U.S. president to graduate from Columbia University and to hold a Juris Doctor Law degree magna cum laude; second youngest U.S. president ever elected to the office he holds; one of five U.S. presidents who invited an in-law to live in the White House; the eighth left-handed U.S. president; the first U.S. president of African descent; and the politician who ascended to the U.S. presidency the fastest.

The snafu is a good example of how something can appear to be bad for us, but can turn out for our good: without the snafu, President Obama would not be part of the special small group of presidents with a rare experience and he would not have an official funny story to tell his grandchildren about the role of the "strict constructionist" chief justice in the snafu who was the jurist Bush nominated and he voted against.

What-sexual? The prefixes are coming!

By Helen Clay

On Tuesday, February 17th, Justin and Helen of the Douglas Pride Collective will be hosting an information table for pansexuality and asexuality in the New Westminster campus concourse. No idea what pansexual and asexual means? You're not the only one!

Pansexuality is a sexual orientation characterized by what some pansexuals refer to as "gender blindness." This means that gender and sex are irrelevant in choosing a partner, either romantic or sexual.

The key to understanding pansexuality is to know the difference between sex and gender. Sex is biological, determined by your hormones, your chromosomes and what's in your pants. Gender is your perception of yourself as masculine or feminine, or in some cases a little of both or perhaps even neither. So one could be of the female sex but have a male gender identity or vice versa.

Now how does that relate to pansexuality? Pansexuality means rejecting the idea that only two genders exist, male and female, perhaps even thinking of gender as a spectrum, which we move around all our lives. So a specific gender is not the focus in a sexual or romantic partner or partners. Pansexuality is therefore an attraction to all genders.

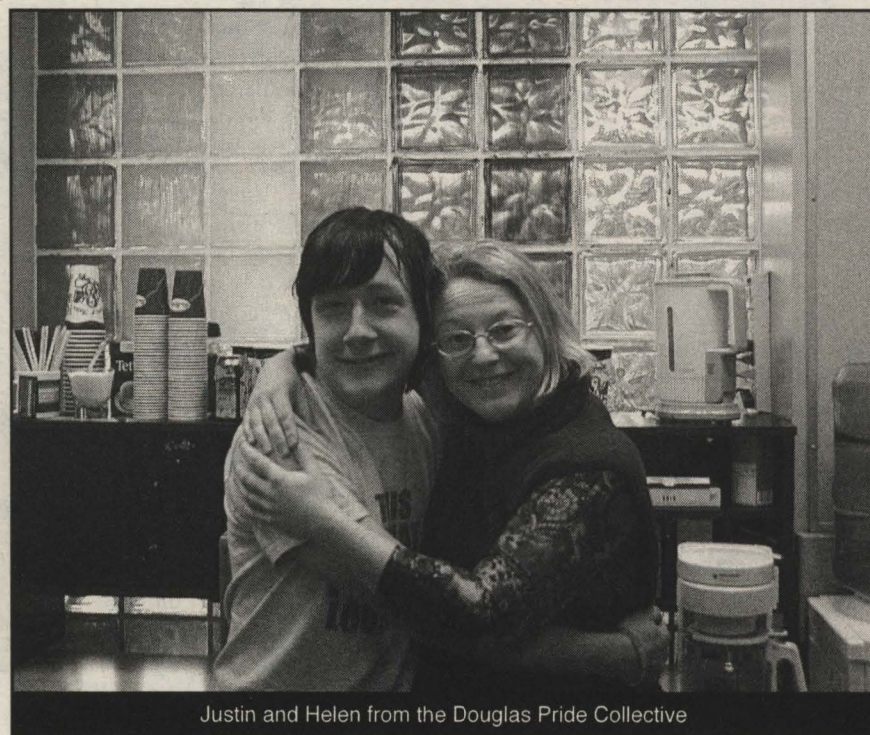
Can pansexuals be monogamous? The answer is yes. Justin, himself, is in a monogamous relationship at the moment. Of course, some pansexuals opt for non-monogamy, but that is independent of their orientation, as many heterosexuals also opt for non-monogamy.

What about asexuality? An asexual is defined as a person who does not experience sexual attraction.

So, if asexuals don't want to have sex with anyone, who cares? Why does anyone else need to know? Well, many asexual people will still experience romantic attraction and fall in love. This gets to be a problem when all the other people around you appear to be sexual, and need to express their love through sex.

There's been little research on asexuality to date. One study suggested that one percent of the population may be asexual—that's 22,000 people in Metro Vancouver! The problem is that most of these 22,000 people don't know that asexual is a valid orientation, and that they are not the only ones who feel this way. They may be in a relationship, very much in love with their partner, but suffering stress over the issue of sex. Or, perhaps they have never felt the need for a close relationship, and feel isolated from the rest of society. Many asexuals find understanding and like-minded people on the web forum www.asexuality.org.

So come along on Tuesday, February 17th, and check out our table in the concourse of the New Westminster campus. We'll have lots of info on pansexuality and asexuality, and Justin and Helen will be there to answer any questions you may have. If you're not in school that day, come find us in the Pride Office, located in the New Westminster Students' Union Building (room 328). The general office hours are posted around campus. Justin's hours are 12–2 p.m. Mondays and 10:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m. Thursdays. Helen is in on Mondays 2 p.m.–4 p.m.



Justin and Helen from the Douglas Pride Collective

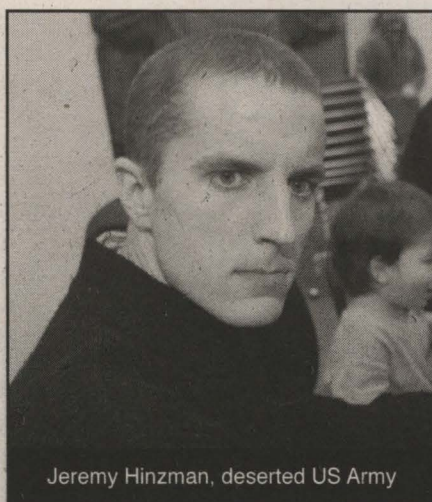
Army deserters should be deported

By Garth McLennan

One of the hot topics right now is the deportation orders involving several American army deserters. These cowards—and that is what they are—are desperately seeking the right to remain in Canada.

So, over this period of time, the activist left has come out in full force with big banners that proclaim how horrible it is that these so-called soldiers actually have to live up to their responsibilities. They carry insulting signs and sing annoying chants that all center on the evil of the Iraq War and about how these deserters are really heroes, just like the “heroes” who fled the Vietnam War.

The big difference here is that the war in Iraq, unlike the one 40 years ago in Vietnam, doesn’t involve a draft or any conscription of any kind. Each and every single one of these “war resisters” signed up for the armed forces out of their own free will. No one forced them to do it. There was no obligation for



Jeremy Hinzman, deserted US Army

them to enlist. And it isn’t like they didn’t know what they were getting into. The Iraq war is almost six years old now. The minimum term in the armed forces for a soldier is three years. So, it isn’t like they signed up in 2002 before the war started, became opposed to it and now don’t want to go. The war has been raging for six long years, and the Afghanistan one for even longer, with more coverage and analysis on it than any form of combat in history. These fugitives knew what they were getting

into when they signed up for the job.

I have no problem with people who are opposed to the war. There isn’t anything wrong with that. But if they were so against it then why sign up in the first place? To join the military freely and then run away when they need you to help them is shameful. Those that are fundamentally opposed to the war are allowed to apply for conscientious objector status as well.

It would also be a disgusting move by the Canadian government to permit deserters who won’t honour their word to remain in Canada when we have so many of our own men and women over in Afghanistan and other parts of the world defending freedom and putting their lives on the line.

With so many people who enlisted in both the Canadian and American militaries out of nothing more than a sense of duty and right, how can these snivelling cowards even look at themselves in the mirror, knowing full well that thousands of others had the courage to do what is right? Plain and simple, they abandoned their fellow troops, and Stephen Harper is right to kick them out.

War of Words

Draft dodging: the humane thing to do

Just like in the days of the Vietnam War, some American soldiers have fled the Army and sought safety in Canada. But what is next for them? Should they be allowed to stay?

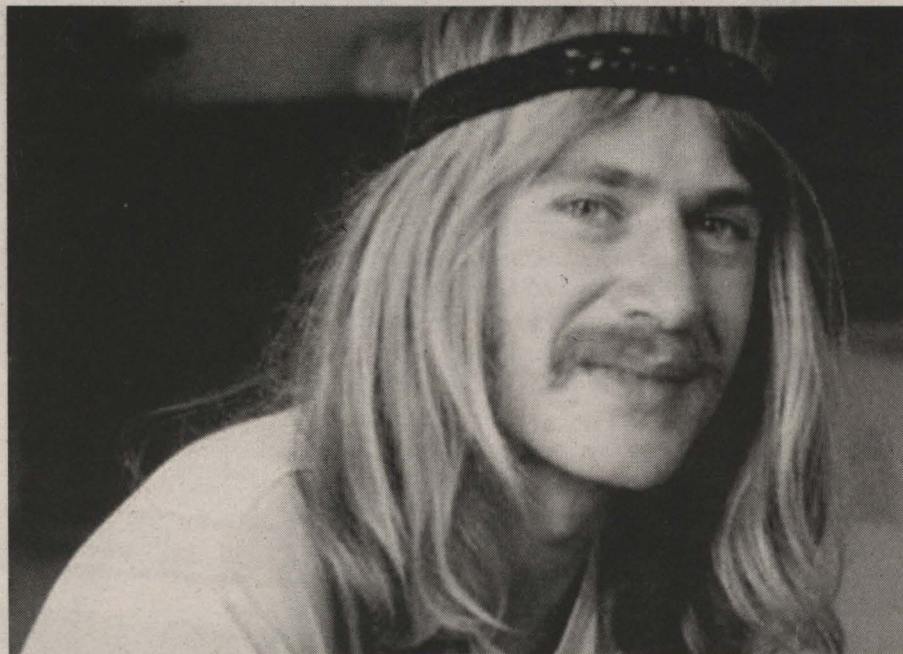
By Jay Schreiber

Have you ever seen an advertisement for the Canadian Armed Forces? Looks pretty cool to rescue people from helicopters and retrieve hostages from behind enemy lines. The truth is, being in the armed forces isn’t all it’s cracked up to be.

Dating back to the days of conscription in the U.S. and Canada, people have been leaving their home grounds in search of refuge from being shipped off to war. Call me a pacifist, but I have a strong dislike for war and refuse to ever be enlisted in an activity where my objective may be to kill another human being. That aside, I do have a respect for the military, and believe that they do a lot of good work.

In some cases though, this work has been WWI, WWII, and the Vietnam War to name a handful. Eligible men and women, facing conscription, who want nothing to do with war activity, have a right to choose not to fight. I don’t believe the government should ever force anyone to kill, but rather dangle the opportunity to be put in a situation that it may happen in front of draftees.

I sympathize with people not wanting to be forced into something they



don’t want to do. One of the things that makes Canada such a great place is our peaceful and accepting nature. Canada

“I sympathize with people not wanting to be forced into something they don’t want to do. One of the things that makes Canada such a great place is our peaceful and accepting nature.”

(and specifically Vancouver) was host to many American draft dodgers during the ‘60s and ‘70s and was quite lenient when finding and retuning them to the states. For the most part, the Canadian

government looked the other way, and before any of the captured dodgers ever saw a court date, U.S. President Jimmy Carter issued a full pardon of all escapees.

Canada is a humane and accepting culture, and if we no longer accept draft dodgers it would be a big step backwards for our “live and let live” way of life. After all, I, myself, am an American who chooses to live in Canada.

The police need to be better

By Garth McLennan

Whether it's been the RCMP or municipal forces, police officers have really come under fire lately. And unlike most times, the harsh criticism currently being levied on the cops is completely justified.

Pretty much everyone has heard of the Robert Dziekanski tragedy that happened at Vancouver International Airport back in 2007. A highly distressed Dziekanski was tasered multiple times after losing his cool by four RCMP officers and died within moments. Dziekanski, who spoke no English, had wandered around the secure area in the airport for nine hours before eventually blowing up and throwing furniture and computers. While he was clearly out of line, there was absolutely no call whatsoever for the police reaction. Video of the incident was captured and millions have now seen Dziekanski screaming in agony while suffering from both the repeated taser blasts as well as the four officers piling on him, including driving their knees into his throat.

There was massive public outrage in the aftermath of the incident, which was compounded by the announcement that the four officers responsible would not face criminal charges.

Unbelievably, one of the officers involved in the tasing of Dziekanski,



Cpl. Benjamin Robinson, drove home drunk with his kids in the car back in October of 2008. On the way, travelling at high speeds, he smashed into 21-year-old motorcyclist Orion Hutchinson and killed him. Without even checking to see if Hutchinson could be helped or saved, Robinson fled the scene.

Recently, things got even worse when three off-duty officers, one each from the municipal forces of West Vancouver, Delta and New Westminster allegedly robbed and viciously beat 47-year-old newspaper deliveryman Phil Khan outside of the Hyatt Hotel in downtown Vancouver. The three officers, two of whom have now been charged, are reported to have savagely



beaten Khan while shouting racial slurs at him. Most often the phrase, "We don't like brown people" was uttered. Kahn has engaged all three in lawsuits and will quite likely be suing their respective departments as well.

The scene was recorded on the Hyatt's security video and the taxi driver who dropped the officers off was in full view of everything. While Khan was being kicked and punched in the head he is said to have screamed for help from the police, to which the officers allegedly replied, "We are the police." Khan's cell phone and \$200 were stolen.

Constable Scott Klassen of New Westminster has been suspended with

pay, essentially a vacation, and the other two involved have been assigned to desk duty.

Honestly, that is an absolute disgrace. I fully support the notion that everyone should get their day in court but with the already overwhelming evidence and as many as nine witnesses, things appear to be pretty cut and dried. At the very least all three of the officers should have been suspended indefinitely without pay.

One of the biggest issues the public has with cases such as this is that the police investigate themselves, which has led to the not-so-unwarranted suspicion that offending police officers get an easier ride than anyone else. When you consider the Dziekanski file, it isn't hard to see why people tend to think that way.

The fact is most police are good cops. They do exactly what they've been trained to do, protect us. The problem is that when some of the bad apples do things like the ones listed above, the public perception of the police becomes one of intense mistrust and suspicion.

If anyone is to have any faith left in the justice system, these cops should be tried and sentenced like anyone else would be. If they are let off the hook or swept under the rug the public backlash will be incredible, and if that happens, then the police will have no one to blame but themselves.

I got a taste of freedom and I want it back!

By Wendy A. Case

For one week in January, transit users got a taste of real freedom. Due to the construction on the Pattullo Bridge after the fire on the Surrey side of the bridge, TransLink was forced to run the SkyTrain earlier in order to ease the burden on the Alex Fraser and Port Mann bridges. The service change was expected to last up to four weeks, and was an unbelievably good thing for my coworkers and me. Some of our morning staff come from as far away as Surrey, and normally that means that they can get to the store around 5:30 a.m., but as our store opens at 6:00 a.m. it means that we often open late and are cranky at that. The service change allowed all of us to get to the store by 5:15. It was a godsend even for those of us who live in Vancouver because it meant that you didn't have to wait twenty minutes between buses in the negative temperatures.

However, the service change was only in effect for one week. That week was paradise, but it was cruelly ripped away. The fact that TransLink has dismissed longer hours for the SkyTrain has long been the topic of many Facebook groups and petitions. The amazing response to the emergency hours instituted during that week should be a clue to TransLink; early morning Skytrain service *is* viable. People will take it if it's available. It just takes a little thought and ingenuity. Please, for the sake of us transit users,



please bring it back.

Hell, go a step further and just give us 24-hour service. It'd be great for all those people who leave the downtown clubs drunk at 2 a.m. Having been there with a large group I can tell you, it's not easy to get a cab at that time of night. Even if you're lucky and you get one, you'll be hard pressed to get them to go outside of Vancouver. Why not give people an option other than paying for an extremely expensive cab or driving home drunk? Add in the environmentally friendly aspect and that could be part of the B.C. Liberals' election campaign. A nice warm

and fuzzy transit package for all us transit users. I tell you, they'd have my vote.

In the meantime, though, I'm a lot more dissatisfied with my commute. It leaves me out in the cold. Having had a taste of freedom, you can never really be satisfied with captivity again. So, thank you, TransLink for giving me a glimpse of how good it can be.

Now I'm asking, can you make it that good all the time?

Word on the Street

By Priscilla Bartleman

What is the lamest or most interesting Valentine you have gotten?



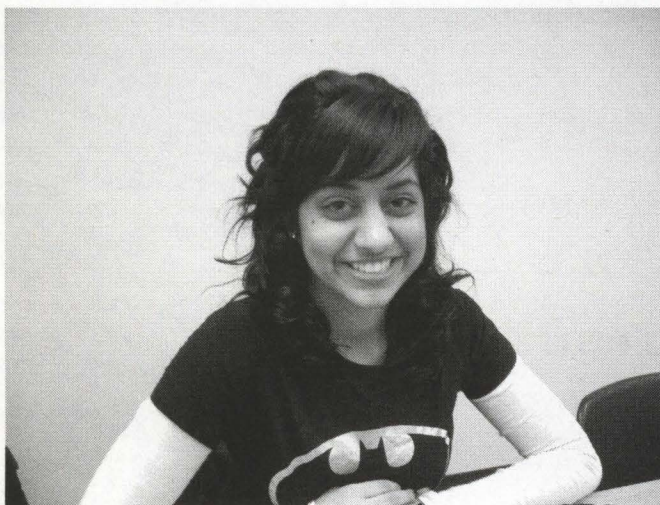
Rowan Weismiller
General Studies 1st Semester

Valentines has not been relevant for me since Grade 2.



Hanna Opiol
History 1st Year

There is a Women's Day in Poland like Valentine's Day and one year my boyfriend gave me flowers and asked where his sandwiches were.



Shazia Bandali
General Studies 2nd Year

I liked cartoon cards, the ones you would get in your paper mailbox at the end of your desk. I wish we did that here!



Raed Hodroj is transformed into an old man during a make up artistry class.



Video Relay Service BC, an organization that wants to improve phone service for the hearing impaired, held a meeting at Douglas this week.

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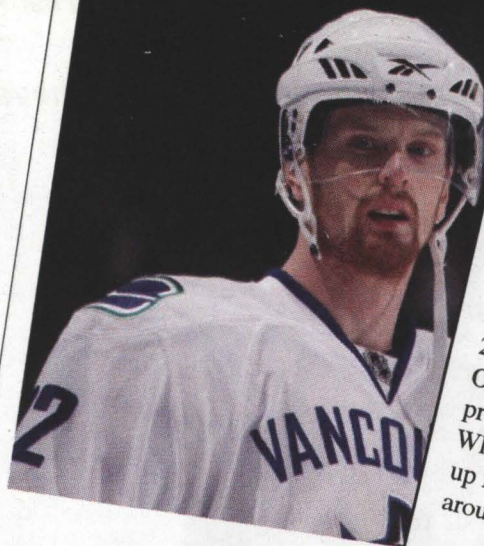
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Please return signed by
parent/guardian

So it's a bit past the midway point of the 2008-09 NHL season, and while the
future is unwritten, the past sure is... and it's written in report cards.
These are the midterm reports for each of the 'Nucks, and only time will tell if
these turn out to be their final grades for the school year.

By Garth McLennan



Daniel Sedin

Dear Mr/Mrs. Sedin,
While Daniel has stayed strong
this year and his 48 points in 49
games leads the class, he hasn't
quite lived up to our expectations
of him. Daniel was expected to
move into the elite of the entire
school, but so far, he has remained
a strong but not elite-level player.
He still receives low grades in
physical play but once again has
demonstrated excellent ability to
shoot the puck and make plays. His
22 goals lead the class.
Once again, Daniel has had some
problems with bullying this year.
While his classmates often stand
up for him, his being pushed
around hasn't stopped.

RECOMMENDATION: Needs
to become more involved in the
corners to move to the next level.
He should also begin standing up
for himself in front of the net and
in the high traffic areas. This will
lead to more goals.

FINAL GRADE:

B

Henrik Sedin

Dear Mr/Mrs. Sedin,
Henrik is a very gifted player, but I'm
afraid to say that his development has
stalled, somewhat. His 44 points in
49 games are good enough for second
on the team in scoring, but his eight
goals over that span need to improve.
His refusal to shoot the puck, even in
prime scoring areas, has resulted in a
number of missed opportunities and I
know that he is capable of more. He has
demonstrated in practice that he has a
superb shot when he wants to use it, but
it is frustrating as a teacher to watch him
pass when he should shoot. He has also
gone through two goalless droughts at
ten and 13 games respectively.
That being said, his passing skills are
without a doubt the best in the class and
his assist totals are fantastic.

RECOMMENDATION: Needs to
shoot the puck more and step up his
physical play. Shooting more is key; he
has just 80 shots this year, compared to
Daniel's 167.

FINAL GRADE:

B

Ryan Kesler

Dear Mr/Mrs. Kesler,
Ryan's improvement
staggering. He has go
at best and a floater on
not only the class' but
best defensive forward
Ryan has 25 points and
in the class in scoring.
best penalty killer in th
proven to be very depe
situations. He battles ha
boards isn't afraid to sta
and tougher kids when t
His nine goals could be
he's developed excellen
classmate Alex Burrows
terrific at shutting down
from other classes each r
earned every cent of his s
salary this year. In fact, th
talk around the staffroom
the Selke Trophy as the so
way forward.

RECOMMENDATION:
the great work, Ryan!

REPORT CARD

Kyle Wellwood

Dear Mr/Mrs. Wellwood,
Since transferring in from Toronto, Kyle has been a confusing student. On the one hand, he's second in the class in goals with 14 and has done very well at getting into the prime scoring areas. But on the other hand, his play has fallen off dramatically in recent weeks.

After lighting it up early, he hasn't scored in seven games and has just three goals in his last 23 games. His play has really dropped off as of late. I understand that similar things have happened before in Toronto with Kyle, but he needs to rediscover the scoring touch he had at the beginning of this season.

RECOMMENDATION: Needs to go back to what he was doing earlier in the year. Go to the right spots beside the net and bury passes from his line mates.

FINAL GRADE:

C+

Shane O'Brien

Dear Mr/Mrs. O'Brien,
Shane has been a surprisingly good student this year, but he does have a penchant for taking bad penalties. He's been a good enforcer for our class and unpredictably superb defensively. While he isn't great all the time, he has made excellent defensive plays, particularly at the beginning of the year. He has a perfect attendance record with 49 games played and has been a good fit for our class.

RECOMMENDATION: Shane needs to cut back on the stupid penalties. That is the only thing keeping him from being a high-B student.

FINAL GRADE:

C+

Taylor Pyatt

Dear Mr/Mrs. Pyatt,
Taylor's play has been abysmal this season. In 41 games he has just six goals and six assists. He has shown a complete lack of effort or ability and has refused point blank to hit or work hard for the puck. For a player that is 6'4, that is unacceptable. He's floated around the ice and hasn't been able to display any sort of good play, despite ample playing time with the Sedin twins and Mats Sundin. He didn't score until the 10th game of the season and has gone through long periods without a goal since.

RECOMMENDATION: Taylor has failed in almost all aspects this semester. I recommend that he be traded or waived as soon as possible. He has shown no improvement whatsoever.

FINAL GRADE:

F

Jason LaBarbera

Dear Mr/Mrs. LaBarbera,
Since coming over from the Los Angeles class, Jason has done an admirable job but often looks overwhelmed. He has kept us in several games by standing on his head but also lost us several games with his incredibly poor shootout skills. While he is a good, athletic goalie, his glove hand has been average and he hasn't responded well to high-pressure situations.

RECOMMENDATION: While Jason is unlikely to see much ice time in the future, he needs to fill in when Roberto needs a break without having the coaching staff nervous about putting him in the game.

FINAL GRADE:

C+

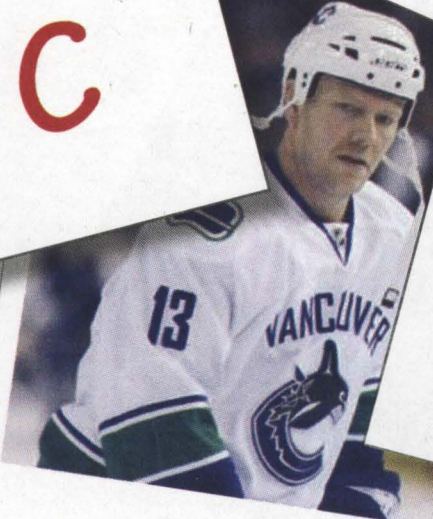
Mats Sundin

Dear Mr/Mrs. Sundin,
While Mats hasn't been with our class for long, it is clear that he needs to do better. He has missed a lot of class that he needs to make up in a hurry and with his current effort level, that won't happen. He is widely considered to be one of the top students in the school, and plain and simple, he hasn't shown that so far. Our class has just one win since he joined us and while he has shown brief displays of the goods that were responsible for his big contract, such as his pure goal-scorer's goal against the Columbus Blue Jackets, they haven't been nearly enough to meet expectations.

RECOMMENDATION: Mats' two goals and three points in eight games are unacceptable. He needs to try harder and find his game... fast.

FINAL GRADE:

C



FINAL GRADE:

B+

REPORT CARD

tra,
t your son has been a
nent this year. Pavol
down season so far
d for third in the class
t with his ability
than 25 points in 38
ssed class for extended
uries and he needs to
healthy.

flashes of brilliance
out his 13-goal total
e. The class's entire
ch Pavol has been a
s to be better to take
Sedin twins. Pavol has
Mats Sundin and his
o rise steadily for him to
e near being worth the
million contract given to
ner.

NDATION: Needs to find
nce of chemistry with line
eds to remain healthy.

FINAL GRADE:

C+

Jannik Hansen

Dear Mr/Mrs. Hansen,
Jannik has not produced at adequate levels this year; in 43 games he has just five goals. While his 19 points are better than some other highly touted rookies this season, goals haven't come easy for your son. Already he's toiled through separate 24 and 11-game goal droughts. While goals aren't his specialty, he hasn't been outstanding at any other aspect of the game either. He's often invisible on the ice, he's been hurt and he's even been demoted to the minors for a few days.

RECOMMENDATION: Plain and simple, Jannik needs to start doing something noticeable. If he can't score goals then he should at least be playing a physical, defensively responsible game at the other end.

FINAL GRADE:

C

Mason Raymond

Dear Mr/Mrs. Raymond,
Mason has had a disappointing year so far. In 48 games he has just nine goals, despite being one of the class' best and fastest skaters. He's shown no touch around the net and usually burns himself out flying up and down the ice while getting nothing done. Tons of time with the Sedins and most recently Mats Sundin haven't worked and his stock as a top-flight young player has plummeted. It may be time for Mason to move to another class.

RECOMMENDATION: Mason needs to start scoring goals. He often gets terrific chances but hasn't been able to convert on them. Nine goals on 198 shots is not good enough.

FINAL GRADE:

C

REPORT CARD

Steve Bernier

Dear Mr/Mrs. Bernier,
While Steve hasn't lived up to expectations, his play has picked up as of late. When he transferred in at the beginning of this year it was expected he would excel with the Sedins. However, that didn't work and Steve was often just standing still and watching the play. His one goal in November reflects that. He was demoted to the third and fourth lines and has had a 13 game goalless streak. However, his play has improved and he has four goals in his last seven games.

RECOMMENDATION: Needs to be more consistent and go to the net harder to bang away at the garbage goals.

FINAL GRADE:

C+

REPORT CARD

Alex Burrows

Dear Mr/Mrs. Burrows,
Alex is in the midst of another solid season and has a dependable 11 goals and 12 assists in 49 games. He's run into some penalty trouble with 78 minutes in the box but overall has been his usual, scrappy self. He isn't afraid to fight or dish out big body checks and has a real knack for getting under the skin of his opponents. He's become a terrific shutdown player with Ryan Kesler and a reliable penalty killer. Earning just the minimum salary, Alex has proven to be one of the school's most underrated players.

RECOMMENDATION: Alex needs to stay out of penalty box on minors but other than that his performance has been exemplary.

FINAL GRADE:

B-

REPORT CARD

Kevin Bieksa

Dear Mr/Mrs. Bieksa,
Kevin has struggled to return to form since his injury-plagued year last season. He is still the class' best defenseman, and he leads all D-men in the class in points with 24 in 40 games. He's managed to stay relatively healthy but unfortunately his physical play has really deteriorated. He's gone from being a feared hitter who could drop the gloves to protect his classmates at any time, to a good defenseman who rarely hits or fights. His numbers are decent but he can be much better.

RECOMMENDATION: Kevin needs to rediscover the style that made him such a prominent student a few years ago. His hitting needs to go way up and he should fight to protect his classmates more.

FINAL GRADE:

B-

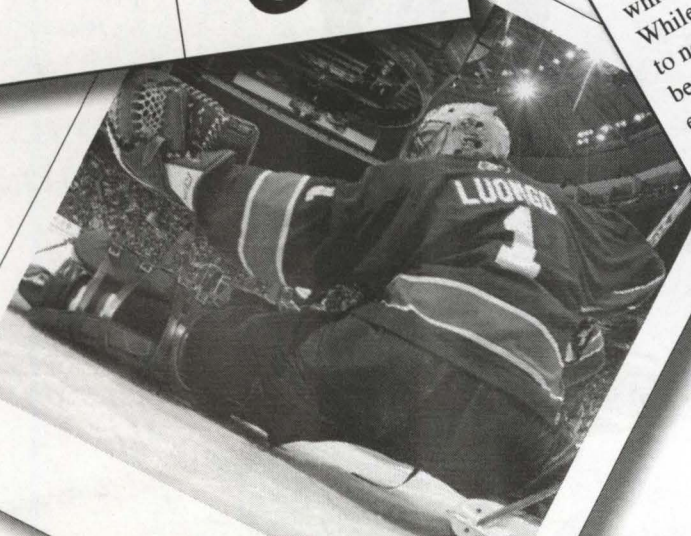
Willie Mitchell

Dear Mr/Mrs. Mitchell,
Willie has improved his class attendance dramatically this year, which is a stark improvement. While he has at times been tough to notice on the ice, he hasn't been noticed for any bad things either. With three goals in 49 games, Willie has little offense to offer, but it is accepted by now that offense is not his area. Defensively, he has been solid but not spectacular. He's done a good job in sticking up for his classmates and hasn't taken many bad penalties. He's integral to the penalty kill.

RECOMMENDATION: Willie needs to develop his hitting game a bit more and play a bit harder with more grit.

FINAL GRADE:

B-



REPORT CARD

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FINAL GRADE:

C

REPORT CARD

Ryan Johnson

Dear Mr/Mrs. Johnson,
If it weren't for his broken foot,
Ryan would be one of the class'
best defensive forwards this year.
He's been fearless in front of the
net when blocking shots and his
faceoff skills have been adequate.
In 29 games he has only two goals,
but it's clear that his talents lie in
other areas. He's been a terrific
back-checker and has been superb
on the penalty kill.

RECOMMENDATION: Ryan
needs to find his groove after his
long-term injury that caused him
to miss 20 games. His value is in
shot blocking and strong defensive
play, but a few goals here and
there would be a big help.

FINAL GRADE:

B-

REPORT CARD

Roberto Luongo

Dear Mr/Mrs. Luongo,
Roberto has been having a very
odd year. His attendance has
been spotty at best and when
he's here he is either brilliant or
below average. Particularly in
November, Roberto was the best
goaltender in the entire school
and gave our class a chance to
win every game. However, since
his return from injury, he hasn't
stood out for any of the right
reasons and needs to find his
game if our class is to do well
this year.

One area that Roberto has
improved in is his interviews
and dealing with people.
Whereas last year he was often
distant and rude with reporters,
he has taken on his new
captain's role quite responsibly
and he receives high grades for
that.

RECOMMENDATION:
Roberto needs to come to class
more. When he's here, he's
among the best in the school, but
when he's not our class loses a
considerable amount of depth.

FINAL GRADE:

B

REPORT CARD

Sami Salo

Dear Mr/Mrs. Salo,
Sami has plummeted from his
reputable standing of a few
seasons ago. He has had frequent
attendance problems (he has only
been present 28 times this year)
and when he has been here, he
is nowhere near the student he
was. There is no effort shown; he
refuses point blank to utilize his
slap shot and he's become a focal
point for floating in this class.
He has shown no improvement
in any area and with just three
goals so far, he's contributed
next to nothing offensively. Quite
frankly Mr/Mrs. Salo, Sami has
been a waste of money.

RECOMMENDATION: His
attendance needs to improve
dramatically and he must start
using his slap shot again. If he
can't do this very quickly, then
I recommend he be moved to
another class immediately.

FINAL GRADE:

F

REPORT CARD

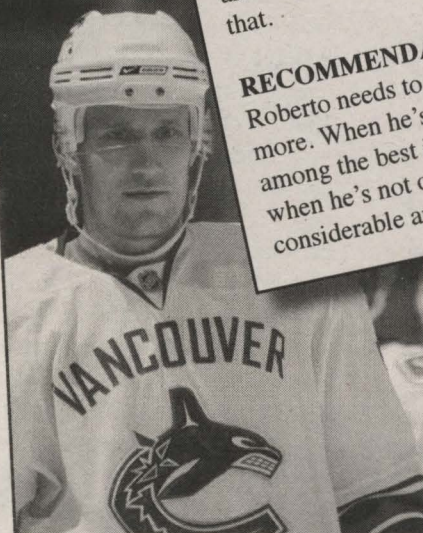
Mattias Ohlund

Dear Mr/Mrs. Ohlund,
Unfortunately, Mattias has settled
comfortably into his role as an
above-average defenseman who
could be much better. His play
s dropped consistently over the
st few years and this season
ears to be no different. He's
d all-around defensively but
offensive production has been
ally non-existent despite
sive power play time.
s just three goals and 11
in 49 games and rarely
s powerful slap shot. He
hit anymore and he's a
of the player he used to

RECOMMENDATION: Mattias
start scoring again.
s on 83 shots aren't
d enough for a guy that
to quarterback the
Occasional hitting
improvement as

FINAL GRADE:

C+



REPORT CARD

Alexander Edler

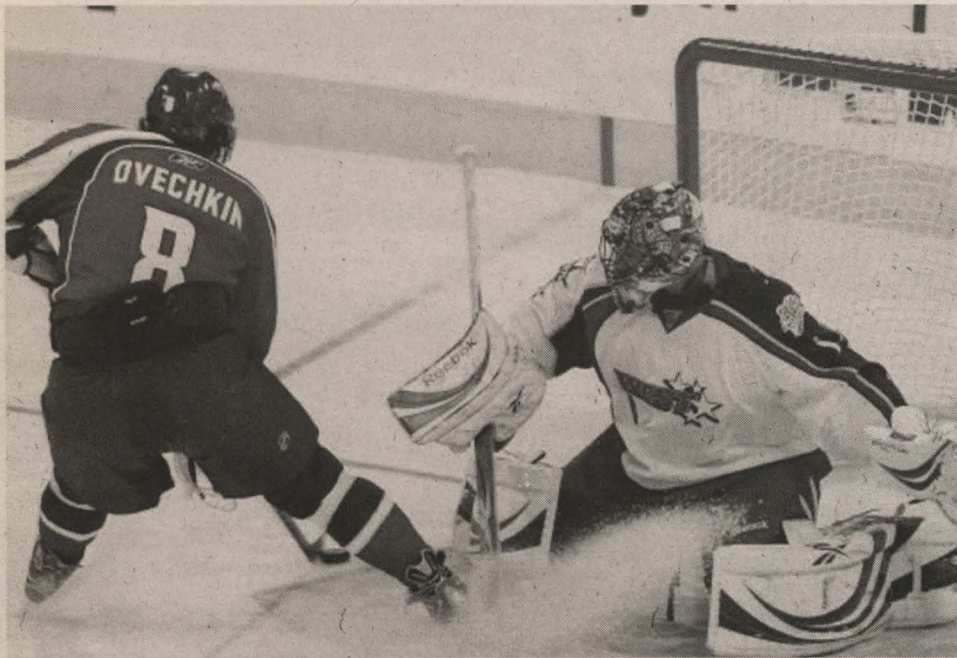
Dear Mr/Mrs. Edler,
Last year, Alexander was arguably
the class's best defenseman. This
year, he looks like he belongs
back in the Swedish junior league.
After playing so well last season,
Alex has often looked lost and
unsure. On the rare occasions that
he is isn't invisible on the ice, he
is often noticed for coughing up
the puck or making a bonehead
play that results in an odd-man
rush.
Alex has just three goals in 47
games this year. After the big-
money deal he signed in the
summer, he needs to be much
better.

RECOMMENDATION: Alex
needs to settle down with the
puck and return to the game that
made him such a superb student
last season. His offensive totals
must improve. Three goals on 88
shots is a smudge on his record.

FINAL GRADE:

C-

We need to re-think the all-star game



Garth McLennan
sports editor

Every year at about the midway point of the hockey season, the

NHL plays their annual all-star game. The format consists of the best from the Western Conference squaring off against the top players residing in the East. Unfortunately, however, almost every year, the NHL all-star game turns out to be a dud.

Despite the best hockey talent displayed in a single game, there is absolutely zero emotion, which is what hockey thrives on. The stars have nothing to play for and so it becomes a high-priced game of shinny every year without fail. There's no defense to speak of and the best goalies in the world get lit up like Christmas trees.

Sure, the offensive wizardry put on display by guys like Alexander Ovechkin is dazzling, but there isn't too much to get out of a 12-11 game where everyone skates at half speed and checking is a foreign word.

The skills competition, which precedes the game, is the best part of the all-star weekend. That's where the true talent and ability of the world's best come out in force and the fans get their money's worth.

The all-star game conundrum has been talked about and re-hashed more than the presidential election, but the fact remains that if Gary Bettman and the NHL want the all-star game to be at all relevant, something needs to change.

Proposals have been floated around to alter the format where it becomes the under-27-year-olds against the over-27-year-olds or back to the old North America versus Europe layout. Those ideas don't solve the problem of putting any sort of reason to play into the game, though.

I have two ideas that would spice up the game and get everyone excited about it. The first is to have the defending Stanley Cup Champions, which this year

would have been the Detroit Red Wings, take on an all-star cast from the rest of the league. That's how it was done from the 1940s up until the late '60s. It becomes a great honor for the Stanley Cup winners and also gives the rest of the league's best a crack at the champions. Like it is currently done, the game would rotate between NHL cities each year.

The second method is a bit more radical but would be much more exciting than anything else the NHL could cook up.

The NHL continues with its all-star weekend like they always do, but instead of having a single game, have a mini-tournament between the divisions. There are six divisions in the league with five teams in each one. Have all-star squads from each division compete in a round-robin system on the Saturday with the final game on Sunday. All the teams from the winning division get home ice advantage in the first round of the playoffs. If two teams from the same division end up facing each other then it reverts back to the current points system.

That would sure give the players an incentive to try hard and it would also allow fans to see more players from different parts of the league. Like always, it would switch cities every year.

Now, this would be tough to get teams to agree to, but it would be awesome for the fans. Teams like Detroit would rather relocate to Florida than go through with this because it would punish them for winning so much. They play in a weak Central division against struggling teams like Nashville and Columbus most of the time. The argument could be made, though, that that is the price they would have to pay for racking up such easy points.

Either way, something has to be done. In principle, the all-star game is a fantastic idea and a great showcase for the league, but every year it turns out to be much bigger hype than it's worth.

Giant's winger breaks team record

By Garth McLennan, Sports Editor

The Vancouver Giants have a new star in town.

Left winger Casey Pierro-Zabotel has set a new mark for points in a single season when he notched an assist, and his 88th point of the year, in his 49th game against the Medicine Hat Tigers last Wednesday. The Giants went on to win 4-3. Pierro-Zabotel picked up his historic helper on a goal by winger Craig Cunningham.

Pierro-Zabotel surpasses former Giant star Gilbert Brule, who previously held the distinction when he posted 87 points in 70 games back in 2004-05. Pierro-Zabotel, who is in his final WHL season playing as an overage 20-year-old, has put up 27 goals and 61 assists. He's been a star for Vancouver all year as he's only been blanked on the score sheet five times all season. While Brule, who was drafted sixth overall to the Columbus Blue Jackets in 2005 and is now a member of the Edmonton Oilers organization, was a hard-to-the-net power forward, Pierro-Zabotel is a slick playmaker with sublime passing skills.

Breaking the Giants single-season point record isn't the only high Pierro-Zabotel is going through this season. His 88 points are good enough to lead the entire Western Hockey League in scoring and his

61 assists also lead the loop by an astounding 13. In fact, Pierro-Zabotel's assist totals have already set a team record earlier in the season. They broke former Giant Darren Lynch's record of 53 that was set way back in the team's inaugural campaign in 2002-03.

Pierro-Zabotel, who is a prospect in the Pittsburgh Penguins system via the 2007 entry draft when he was selected in the third round, 80th overall by the Penguins, is also leading the WHL in plus/minus. He's proven that he is a phenomenal player defensively as well as offensively with a terrific +53 rating so far.

This is only Pierro-Zabotel's second season with the Giants and, unfortunately, his last, but his improvement has been meteoric. Last season, he netted 49 points in 48 games while scoring 19 goals and was a +19. His development has skyrocketed and so has his place on the Penguin's depth charts.

The Giants are rolling on the strength of Pierro-Zabotel and the Giants' other young superstar and projected top-five draft pick Evander Kane. They have been among the league leaders all season long and Pierro-Zabotel has a very real chance of capping off his dream season with a national championship Memorial Cup at the end of the year.



BCCAA Scoreboard

Saturday, January 31st, 2009

Men's Basketball

		GP	W	L	PTS	PF	PA	+/-	Home	Away
	<i>W = 2 Points L = 0 Points</i>									
1	Vancouver Island University <i>Mariners</i>	13	13	0	26	1086	831	+255	6-0	7-0
2	UNBC <i>Timberwolves</i>	13	8	5	16	1081	976	+105	3-2	5-3
3	Langara College <i>Falcons</i>	13	8	5	16	934	943	-9	5-3	3-2
4	UBC-Okanagan <i>Heat</i>	13	8	5	16	932	961	-29	2-2	6-3
5	Douglas College <i>Royals</i>	12	6	6	12	984	1001	-17	2-3	4-3
6	Kwantlen Polytechnic University <i>Eagles</i>	13	6	7	12	1041	1040	+1	5-4	1-3
	Capilano University <i>Blues</i>	12	5	7	10	1035	1025	+10	3-2	2-5
	Columbia Bible College <i>Bearcats</i>	12	5	7	10	891	978	-87	2-5	3-2
	Camosun College <i>Chargers</i>	13	4	9	8	948	975	-27	2-5	2-4
	Quest University Canada <i>Kermodes</i>	12	0	12	0	821	1023	-202	0-7	0-5

Fri. Jan. 30
 VIU 90 CBC 57
 Camosun 84 Quest 74
 UNBC 99 Kwantlen 84
 UBC-O 64 Langara 67
 Capilano 66 Douglas 87

Sat. Feb. 1
 VIU 89 CBC 84 (Overtime)
 Camosun 75 Quest 45
 UNBC 72 Kwantlen 84
 UBC-O 68 Langara 79

Women's Basketball

		GP	W	L	PTS	PF	PA	+/-	Home	Away
	<i>W = 2 Points L = 0 Points</i>									
1	Camosun College <i>Chargers</i>	13	12	1	24	928	642	+286	7-0	5-1
2	UNBC <i>Timberwolves</i>	13	11	2	22	851	695	+156	4-1	7-1
3	Capilano University <i>Blues</i>	12	9	3	18	863	664	+199	4-1	5-2
4	Vancouver Island University <i>Mariners</i>	13	8	5	16	822	646	+176	4-2	4-3
5	Langara College <i>Falcons</i>	13	8	5	16	740	715	+25	6-2	2-3
6	UBC-Okanagan <i>Heat</i>	13	6	7	12	848	777	+71	3-1	3-6
	Douglas College <i>Royals</i>	12	3	9	6	590	648	-58	1-4	2-5
	Quest University Canada <i>Kermodes</i>	12	3	9	6	586	723	-137	2-5	1-4
	Kwantlen Polytechnic University <i>Eagles</i>	13	3	10	6	775	841	-66	3-6	0-4
	Columbia Bible College <i>Bearcats</i>	12	0	12	0	423	1075	-652	0-7	0-5

Fri. Jan. 30
 VIU 93 CBC 30
 Camosun 71 Quest 37
 UNBC 75 Kwantlen 69
 UBC-O 56 Langara 61
 Capilano 53 Douglas 41

Sat. Feb. 1
 VIU 87 CBC 30
 Camosun 64 Quest 45
 UNBC 70 Kwantlen 57
 UBC-O 61 Langara 71 (Overtime)

Men's Volleyball

Rank	Men's TEAMS	MP	MW	ML	GW	GL	PTS
1	UBC-Okanagan <i>Heat</i>	14	11	3	36	13	22
2	Vancouver Island University <i>Mariners</i>	13	10	3	35	15	20
3	Camosun College <i>Chargers</i>	13	9	4	34	14	18
4	University of the Fraser Valley <i>Cascades</i>	12	8	4	26	17	16
5	Douglas College <i>Royals</i>	13	8	5	25	21	16
6	Capilano University <i>Blues</i>	13	6	7	23	24	12
	College of the Rockies <i>Avalanche</i>	12	3	9	11	30	6
	Columbia Bible College <i>Bearcats</i>	12	2	10	10	32	4
	Selkirk College <i>Saints</i>	12	0	12	3	36	0

Fri, January 30
 UFV 3 VIU 2 21-25, 25-16, 26-28, 26-24, 16-14
 Camosun 3 CBC 0 25-15, 25-19, 25-16
 UBCO 3 COTR 0 25-21, 28-26, 25-19
 Capilano 3 Douglas 0 25-23, 25-17, 25-22

Sat, February 1
 VIU 3 CBC 0 25-18, 25-16, 25-18
 Camosun 3 UFV 0 25-22, 25-18, 25-19
 UBCO 3 Selkirk 0 25-17, 25-17, 25-19

Women's Volleyball

Rank	Women's TEAMS	MP	MW	ML	GW	GL	PTS
1	Capilano University <i>Blues</i>	13	12	1	36	5	24
2	UBC-Okanagan <i>Heat</i>	14	12	2	38	8	24
3	Vancouver Island University <i>Mariners</i>	13	10	3	33	11	20
4	University of the Fraser Valley <i>Cascades</i>	12	8	4	25	16	16
5	Douglas College <i>Royals</i>	13	6	7	20	22	12
6	Columbia Bible College <i>Bearcats</i>	12	4	8	16	28	8
	Camosun College <i>Chargers</i>	13	3	10	10	34	6
	College of the Rockies <i>Avalanche</i>	12	2	10	8	32	4
	Selkirk College <i>Saints</i>	12	0	12	7	36	0

Fri, January 30
 VIU 3 UFV 1 25-19, 25-19, 27-29, 25-19
 Camosun 3 CBC 2 25-19, 26-24, 23-25, 21-25, 15-7
 UBCO 3 COTR 0 25-10, 25-6, 25-10
 Capilano 3 Douglas 0 25-8, 25-17, 25-13

Sat, February 1
 VIU 3 CBC 0 25-13, 25-20, 25-17
 UFV 3 Camosun 0 25-18, 25-15, 25-21
 UBCO 3 Selkirk 0 25-13, 25-11, 25-13

Royal Rumble 2009: Good, but predictable

By Garth McLennan, Sports Editor

January 25th marked the beginning of the new Age of Orton.

One of WWE's biggest heels, Randy Orton, won the 22nd annual Royal Rumble, which automatically qualifies him to be in the main event for the 25th WrestleMania in Houston, Texas on April 5th.

Orton entered the 30-man battle royale, which is one of WWE's premier events, in the eighth spot and lasted 48:27 before eliminating Triple H to win.

There were several matches on the evening's undercard. John Cena retained the world heavyweight championship by defeating JBL while Jeff Hardy lost the WWE

Championship to Edge in a no-disqualification match. Also, Jack Swagger successfully defended the ECW Championship against Matt Hardy in his first title defence.

Overall, the PPV was good, but not great. I've got nothing against Randy Orton, but it was just too predictable. WWE is scripted entertainment, but it's still a lot of fun to get caught up in. In the weeks prior to the Rumble, WWE had been really building up both Orton and Triple H. It was clear as well that Jeff Hardy was going to lose the WWE title to Edge over a month ago. The big rumour heading into the Rumble was that Christian Cage, who has just left TNA wrestling, would make his return by screwing Hardy out of the title, but that didn't end up happening. Instead, Jeff's real life brother

Matt turned heel by belting Jeff on the head with a chair and allowing Edge to steal the win.

Aside from the Matt turn, it wasn't hard to see everything else coming. I mean, before the Rumble started, they played a Randy Orton promotional video to the audience.

There were some minor surprises thrown in. Rob Van Dam, who had been out of action for over a year, made a special return in Detroit, where the Rumble was held, and lasted for a while.

With Orton's win the main event at WrestleMania, it appears to be set with a match between Orton and Cena for the world title. Cena, who won the belt back at Survivor Series from Chris Jericho, is the company's biggest face, or good guy, while Orton is easily their

top villain. They have feuded briefly before at Summerslam and Unforgiven back in 2007, but when Cena seriously injured his arm and needed surgery, he missed four months and plans for the feud to continue were scrapped. Ironically, Cena returned and won the Royal Rumble last year. Both Cena and Orton are members of the RAW roster.

On the Smackdown side, their main event appears to be Edge against Triple H. At the biggest WrestleMania in history, there is no way Triple H won't be headlining it, and Edge won't drop the title in two months. A Matt Hardy vs. Jeff Hardy grudge match also seems to be set as well, and considering that both of them are up and coming superstars who are very talented, their contest could wind up stealing the show.



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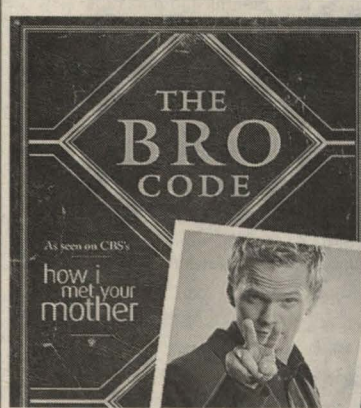
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The Bro Code
Barney Stinson

Ever wonder if you are someone's bro? If so, what is the proper etiquette to being this bro? It can be quite confusing; luckily, the TV show *How I Met Your Mother* has put out a book to answer all of these unsolved questions and to give everyone a proper and necessary guideline to being a bro. With several facts about how one is to act if one crashes on another's couch, how to high five, and even how to help a bro pick up chicks, clearly there is a little something for everyone in this book. So, hurry out and learn all the rules quickly, lest you want to be conned by another bro on the rules of proper etiquette.

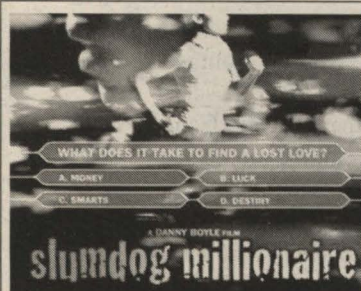
—Matthew Steinbach



Tonight: Franz Ferdinand
Franz Ferdinand

There is no other band that can make complete fools out of themselves and look this cool when they do it, so, it's no wonder they are so often imitated. Franz Ferdinand uses the most ridiculous beats you've ever heard, such as on their new lead track "Ulysses," where it sounds like they're using a Casio keyboard and they stretch out the intro well past the point of absurdity. This album contains many eye-rolling and chuckle inducing moments like this. But serious dance-rock fans—I know you're out there—will find a lot to like on this album as well. Franz Ferdinand is one of the few bands out there that can make an album which people take them seriously and people who think they're a complete joke will both enjoy listening to. This album will make you want to dance and make you want to laugh, and don't be surprised if you end up doing both at the same time.

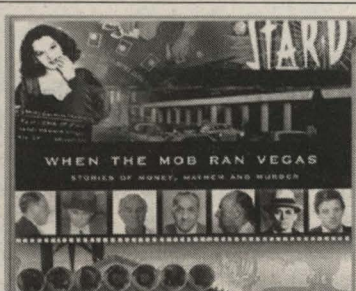
—Mark Fisher



Slumdog Millionaire
Fox Searchlight Pictures

Back in 2000, Regis Philbin played host to prospective millionaires as he provided the questions on *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?* If you were asked, "What movie won four Golden Globes in 2009," your final answer should be *Slumdog Millionaire*. The Golden Globes got it right; this movie's plot and character development are bang on. The film encompasses the life of Jamal Malik and his brother Salim as they are left without parents or a home. The story follows them through their lives growing up in the streets of India, stealing shoes, giving fake tours of the Taj Mahal, and the budding romance between Jamal and Latika right to his fiery split with Salim. *Slumdog Millionaire* jumps from the present to the past as it follows how a simple beggar becomes one of the richest men in India. This genuine and emotionally charged story is perfectly crafted and should definitely be seen.

—Albert Leung



When the Mob Ran Vegas
Steve Fischer

Written by long-time Las Vegas historian Steve Fischer, *When the Mob Ran Vegas: Stories of Money, Mayhem and Murder* is a relatively short book consisting of many intriguing stories about Las Vegas' early days when it was controlled by the Mafia. Fischer has compiled a multitude of entertaining tales, many involving hidden backroom deals, much of Frank Sinatra's time in Vegas and the legendary story of the infamous Bugsy Siegel's Flamingo hotel and casino. Fischer sheds a fascinating light on many previously-unknown mob characters and tells their stories with a wealth of detail and often humour. You'll learn about key players in the development of what Vegas is today, such as Johnny Forelli, Tony Accardo and more. *When the Mob Ran Vegas* is a great, easy read that you won't want to put down. The stories are told in short bursts so it isn't hard to read one and then take a break.

—Garth McLennan

What the hell is a Hayao Miyazaki film?



As a young boy growing up in the '80s, my standard movie-going fare—besides *Star Wars* and *Indiana*

Jones—were Disney films. *Star Wars* and *Indiana* sometimes scared the shit out of me; Disney movies made me feel warm and fuzzy inside. I was firmly convinced that Mola Ram from *the Temple of Doom* was going to rip my heart out from age five to age twelve.

One animator has carried on Walt Disney's legacy, though: Hayao Miyazaki, largely unknown in North America, has produced and directed the highest-grossing film in Japan, *Princess Mononoke*, as well as received an Academy Award for his work on *Spirited Away*. Both films are anime and both films have been grossed millions in Japan.

Unlike the polished CG animations of late, these films were produced using single cell animation over painted backdrops, giving the overall film an unpolished whimsical look and feel. These films have a warm quality in much the same way that vinyl records "just sound better;" like vinyl, these films just look better. There is a magic hidden within that is not found in CGI animation.

Miyazaki has managed to stay true to traditional pen-to-paper animation; however, *Princess Mononoke*, *Howl's Moving Castle* and *Spirited Away* have all contained CGI elements. The CGI used has had a more natural flavour when compared with the CGI used in *Toy Story* or *The Incredibles*.

Miyazaki has also stated that no CGI will be used for his upcoming film, *Ponyo on a Cliff by*

the Sea, an adventure, which almost takes place entirely underwater or in the sea. He feels this will allow for more artistic license and imagination when presenting the elegance of the sea.

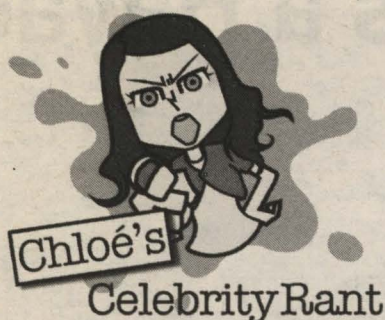
Miyazaki's films draw their strength from their innocence; the stories are generally centered on the wonder of flight, parallel worlds or the environment. Reoccurring themes are a concern for ecology, human impact on the environment, the harmful nature of the military and morally grey villains.

Many of Miyazaki's characters are not what they seem. For example, Jigo, a wandering monk in *Princess Mononoke*, begins the film by aiding the hero, but later almost turns the world to the shadows. Or Totoro, a forest spirit, is a large troll-like creature who turns out to be quite gentle and aids a pair of sisters in *My Neighbour Totoro*.

Hayao Miyazaki acts as both writer and director on his films and many of his stories are based upon Manga that he has produced over the years. This personal touch is reflected in Miyazaki's characters; they are round and dynamic and not easily pigeonholed into traditional concepts of good and evil, black and white.

As a testament to Hayao Miyazaki's feminist ideals, all films have strong female protagonists as well as strong male characters. This is a stark comparison to western films, which are usually focused on the adventures of young boys or a young boy and a girl. For this reason, Miyazaki's films encompass a universal appeal to both genders.

As strange as this sounds, I think these are films I would show my kids one day, but for now, it will have to be the dog who gets weirded out when I try and sit her down to watch some cartoon about castles in the sky.



By Chloé Bach, Arts Editor

Kanye, Kanye, Kanye... did your mother drop you on your head when you were young? Is that the cause of its permanent swelling?

Recently, Kanye West became a fashionista. He "designed" a shitty, unoriginal, over-priced pair of plain red sneakers for Louis Vuitton, which means, naturally, he has to change his name to something more conducive to royalty.

Kanye has declared that "due to what has happened—what has happened so severely when the red shoes hit the runway, I was forced to change my name to Martin Louis the King Jr. Address me as such," which he followed up by saying "I'm going to go and take an internship and just do something that's like completely normal, and just rap at the weekends or something."

Ugh, Kanye. Why do you have to be a walking stereotype?

First of all, that doesn't even make any sense (much like most of his blog entries). Maybe with

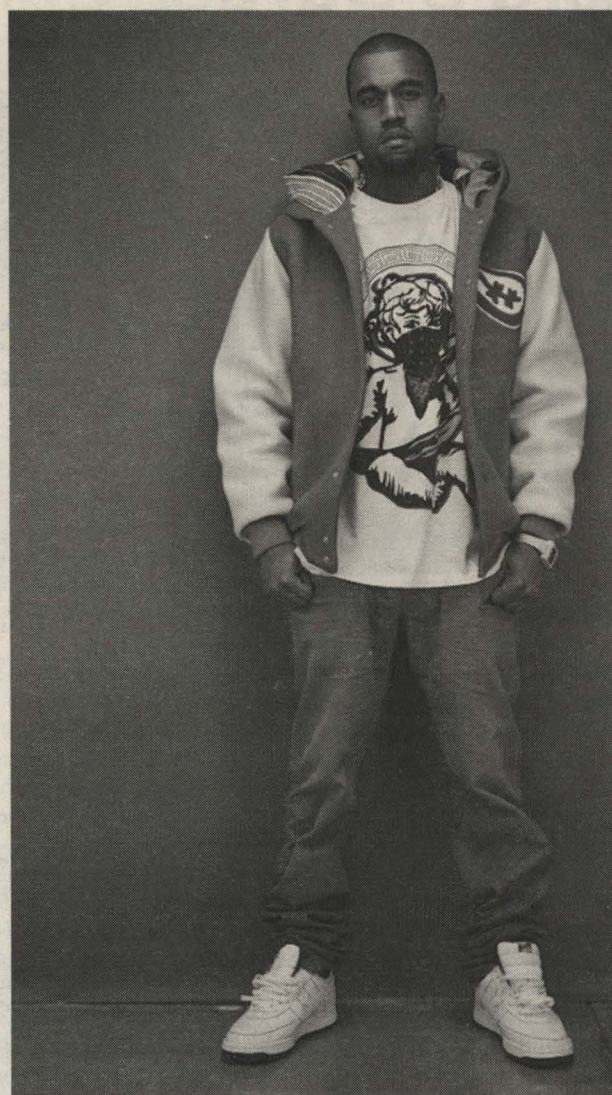
Kanye West

A king?

all the money he makes from his shoes he could hire a PR rep to write his blogs for him—you know, portray the intelligence that he is unable to. Or, better yet, he could make a donation to a children's literacy foundation of sorts, make sure the next generation's hip-hop icon has a better grasp of their own first language.

Secondly, why the hell would he have a right to more or less name himself after one of the world's greatest and most eloquent civil rights activists? Yes, buddy can put on a show, belt out a pretty catchy tune and is, in my opinion, artistically talented, but I can't think of any international, life-altering accomplishments of his. It's really an insult to the legacy of Martin Luther King.

Enough is enough Kanye; your ego will be the death of you, and as it stands, the only thing you are the king of is being a douche.



Kiss fans, pucker up for a harsh reality check

By Jay Schreiber

If there's one thing I can't stand (other than jocks, the VPD and Republicans) it's a famous rock band with no musical drive whatsoever. In the case of Kiss, their drive is embedded in the eight-digit figures they bring in from merchandise alone and the blond bimbo in the front row who's going backstage after the set to play ring toss with Gene Simmons' other instrument.

The term "sell-out" is tossed around a lot nowadays, but what does it actually mean, and where did it come from? In the 1970s, there were two types of music that flooded the airwaves: disco and hard rock (soon to be known as heavy metal). Kiss lead the resistance against disco with the formation of what is known as the "Kiss Army," composed mainly of pimply-faced 15-year-olds who hated any dance music with a passion.

In 1977, however, Kiss released the song "I Was Made For Loving You," and sent shockwaves through all the soldiers under their command, using a disco beat and lyrics that could make anyone wearing Kiss merchandise question their existence. This, my friends, is the essence of



selling out. Kiss forgot about the fans that followed them religiously and did what they wanted to do all in the name of money.

Who do I blame? Easy: Gene Simmons, the god of selling himself. Gene Simmons has made a catalogue and a half of seemingly useless merchandise all credited to Kiss.

After *School of Rock* became a hit in 2003 and launched the career of Jack Black, Gene Simmons jumped on the ball. He created a TV show where he himself is the teacher and teaches British school kids how to rock. I think a little part of me died after the pilot aired.

As if that wasn't enough, Gene felt the show wasn't focused on him enough, and the egotistical bastard

created a new show, *Gene Simmons Family Jewels*. This show focused on the life of the old fart as well as his family and their spending habits. Who the hell watches this crap? Has American TV gotten to the point where you pay for cable only to watch a show about how rich people throw their money around for extravagant bullshit?

The rest of the members of Kiss are a mixed bag; Paul Stanley, guitarist and vocalist for the group is probably the most tolerable member, due to his stage presence and decent voice. Paul has stayed with the group through several line-up changes and has kept a fairly level head. Ace Frehley, lead guitarist and most talented member of the quartet, is a complete buffoon who wouldn't be able to keep sober in a monastery. 'Nuff said.

Then there's Peter Criss, the wimpy one. A drummer with nine cymbals and eight toms and still only knows how to produce the most basic rock beat. In addition, he was the vocalist for the Kiss ballad "Beth," one of the lamest songs of all time. The cat man of the group has probably never been complimented on anything he's ever done and quite frankly, he doesn't deserve it.

I think *Family Guy*'s Peter Griffin

put it best: "Nobody wants to be Peter Criss, not even Peter Criss!"

Right then, back to Gene. When asked about all the money he's made and if he regrets selling out at all, he simply stated, "My bank account is happy and that's all that matters." For every teenage boy that buys a Kiss hoodie and thinks they're part of some greater organization: you should wake up and realize that all that disposable income is going right into Mr. Simmons' back pocket.

Gene sued King Diamond, a prolific metal vocalist, for wearing makeup that is too similar to that of Kiss, but failed because of the hundreds of other bands that also use similar corpse paint. As Gene stated himself, Kiss is rock *brand* not a rock band. He then claimed that he also invented the question mark.

While the Kiss army continues to march on, it appears that their numbers have only skyrocketed with new products like Kiss dolls, Kiss bread slicers, and the Kiss credit card that you can purchase other Kiss items with.

There are only two kinds of people that wear that much makeup in this world: clowns and death metal groups, and neither should be taken seriously!

Vera's Burger Shack



By Kris Watrich

What's more American than burgers? Other than Apple pie, freedom fries and blowing shit up? With my hip friend Barack in office, everyone from Tehran to Tokyo is trying to get back on ol' red white and blue's good side. So why not salute our gun-toting cousins south of the border with a little homage doused with cheese, pickles and fried onions?

Unquestionably the best burger I have ever had is from Vera's Burger Shack. Some may argue with this predominantly due to price, but if your idea of gourmet is Boston Pizza or White Spot, you are either seven or so uncultured you think Sarah Palin was a good pick for VP.

Any topping imaginable is available: blue cheese, guacamole or half a hot dog just to name few (and the burger will still only run you between six and eight dollars). If you're not feeling like beef today, why not try a lamb burger or a turkey burger? If you are planning on bringing your girlfriend or mom or some other female with you, veggie burgers are also on the menu. And don't forget to check out their daily

special!

Vera started this unassuming burger shack with husband Frank in 1977 and took pride in serving quality food with the best possible fresh ingredients. So fresh, in fact, that only when an order is placed will the fresh ground beef be moulded into patty form, placed on a hot grill and be served slightly pink. All menu items are still made using Vera's original recipes. The milkshakes contain real ice cream and the French fries, well, they're double fried. That's right: twice the frying, twice the goodness.

Although Vera and Frank are no longer active in the business, Gerald and Noah Carter have kept the spirit of this simple delicious business alive. You just can't beat Vera's meat.

Four forks out of four.

Fork This



Roger Ebert: 0; Paul Blart:1



I have to offer Adam Sandler my advice after seeing the movie he co-produced, *Paul Blart: Mall Cop*. Sandler, behind the camera is where you belong.

It's true. I can't stand his on-camera roles, but this movie turned out to be quite decent.

Of course, the success of the movie was not Sandler's doing alone, but also his pal's, Kevin James (co-producer, writer, actor). Since the two got married (fictitiously, of course) in *I Now Pronounce You Chuck and Larry*, they have been good chums. Apparently, a solid friendship can do wonders in a work context because their collaboration produced a good picture.

The title of the movie is a fitting preface to the main character, Paul Blart (Kevin James), who is stubbornly convinced that rather than mall security, he is a "mall cop." He conducts himself in a police-like manner and enjoys strictly enforcing rules, such as speed limits for wheelchairs in the mall. He completes the look by sporting a macho moustache as he attempts to intimidate by cruising on a Segway (a two-wheeled, upright electric vehicle).

However, he is mocked and humiliated for the way he carries himself and fails at advancing a casual relationship with a woman of interest. After learning that he is in the midst of an in-mall robbery, he must choose whether he will surrender to fear or unleash his cop-like heroism... if he has it.

The plot is refreshingly simple and innocent, and as expected, includes James' character repeatedly poking fun at his own obesity.

Personally, I think Kevin James is an underrated actor that dwelled in the shadow of Will Smith in the movie he co-starred in, *Hitch*. I base this on seeing his wacky and wild side (look for the drunken scene in the movie); a funny blunt side, best demonstrated by his brutal honesty with a straight face; and a relatable side as just an average guy.

With some movies, it's good to go with your gut instinct and see it despite negative reviews. This is one of those movies.

Generally, it has garnered poor ratings, even from a big name, Roger Ebert. He asks, referring to the movie's decency, "Isn't wholesome [a] code word for boring?" If I could review his review, I would give it no stars out of five or whatever the heck it is.

In one sense, he's right that most moviegoers have become so brain dead that if they are not amused with f-bombs every other second or the like, they are inclined to doze off. But what he's doing is just promoting the way we have been conditioned to think.

In the end, some might not see this movie because of inaccurate and misleading reviews like Ebert's. But believe me; go see it.

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Rise of the Lycans surprisingly good

By Chloé Bach, Arts Editor

In 2003, the first movie of the *Underworld* series was released on the big screen; in 2006 its sequel, *Underworld: Evolution* was released, and admittedly, I saw neither at the time because, well, they looked straight-up shitty. There are so many campy vampire flicks out there that I didn't even bother.

That said, when I finally got around to watching them this past year I was pleasantly surprised. Sure, they're no Academy Award material but they're super entertaining and chock full of attractive actors. What more could you ask for?

And the latest prequel does not disappoint. In fact, it exceeds its predecessors.

On January 24th, *Underworld: Rise of the Lycans* hit theatres and grossed almost \$21 million, second only to that stupid *Mall Cop* movie starring that annoying fat guy (seriously people, what the fuck is wrong with you? *Paul Blart*? Number one?) The film stars the very

accomplished Bill Nighy as Viktor and Michael Sheen (who also plays David Frost in *Frost/Nixon*) as Lucien as well as the less-well-known Rhona Mitra (who would be exceptionally better looking if there was a way to extract the collagen from her lips) as Viktor's daughter, Sonja.

The film takes us back about 1,000 years before the initial *Underworld* to tackle how this rivalry between the vampires and the half-human werewolves known as Lycans was spawned. The story chronicles Lucien's life, as the first Lycan, from a crying baby, to a scrappy teen with superior combat skills, to a hunky wereman who spends the majority of the film without a shirt.

The gist of the story is that Viktor, one of the vampire coven's founding fathers, breeds Lucien (makes him bite other humans) to create an army of Lycans who will protect his castle from the pure werewolves. Essentially, Viktor treats the Lycans like slaves and forces them to wear inward facing spiked collars to prevent them from transforming into their wolf forms. However, the film

takes an exciting turn when Lucien starts nailing Viktor's daughter, Sonja, and breaking some of the coven's most basic rules.

The graphics and fight scenes that ensue are surprisingly well done and at the very least, pretty damn entertaining. As Lucien leads his fellow Lycans in a rebellion, you'll see several transformations between their human and wolf forms that are substantially more impressive than most other out-of-date and even current movies featuring these fantasy monsters. Even *Twilight*. Yes, I said it. As dreamy as Ed Cullen is, the special effects in that movie blew.

So, while you may not hear the words *Rise of the Lycans* so much uttered at the Oscars this year it's an amusing, action-packed film with a romantic twist that will appeal to men as well as the fairer sex. This movie is a great way to spend a rainy Tuesday night, and so I recommend you do just that.



Rhona Mitra as Sonja



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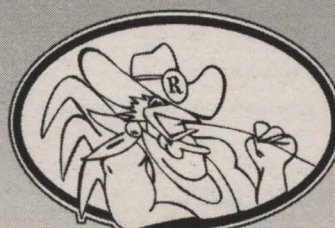
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